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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 6TH MARCH.

THE MARCH NUMBER of the *Statistical Reporter* is as usual replete with interest. The first article on the natural productions of the Monghyr district north of the Ganges is full of interesting details and very readable. The writer thus begins:

"The Ganges, which divides the 3,913 square miles that form the district of Monghyr into two nearly equal portions, also separates the natural productions to such an extent that any one who has examined the southern side will find an almost entirely new field for exploration in the north. Hills and valleys covered with forest trees, and vast rice tracts, prevail in the south; whilst the northern portion of the district presents one unbroken flat liable to inundation during the rains, and at the present season of the year covered for the most part with the various crops which are classed under the general head of *rubbee*.

Nor is the separations made by the Ganges confined to the vegetable kingdom: long-tailed baboons, peacocks, jungle-fowl, and grey partridges, tolerably abundant in the south, never cross the water; and the sportsman who to-day may include black partridges and kyah partridges, a vast variety of waders and ducks in his bag, will look in vain for such birds if to-morrow he crosses the water southward.

The daily bread of the poor of the district north of the Ganges, is made chiefly from the well-known gram, a member of the pea tribe, and which nearly always shares the soils with wheat; and indeed on the rich alluvial lands renovated yearly with fresh deposits of soil, the system of growing the rich man's crop with the poor man's crop side by side is probably more advantageous to the ryot than if they were sown separately. But the labourer of Monghyr does not eat only gram. He has at least as great a variety of food as his European brother, and in some parts of the district he can feast himself and his friends probably cheaper than he could in any other quarter of the globe. At this season sweet potatoes sell at 12lb for a penny in the Begoo Sarai sub-division, and 5lb of fresh fish may be had for a similar sum from the Kabar lake close by. If the host adds tobacco after dinner, a pound will only cost him a half-penny, and a glass or two of spirit. London proof, all round would cost no more but for the Government duty which acts as a healthy check on rustic conviviality."

THE SAME JOURNAL gives the concluding remarks of Mr. MacDonell's very able and valuable memorandum on the population of the Patna division to land and to food-grain supply. We make the following extract from it:

"The Patna commissionership—with an area one-fourth less, but with a population three and one-third times denser, than that of Ireland, and 20 per cent. denser than that of Belgium, the most populous country in Europe—is divided by the Ganges into two not very unequal portions. Differing from each other in physical aspect and character of soil, these two portions, from an economic point of view, exhibit also much mutual divergence. As far as mere numbers of people living in each go, the difference is obvious and well marked. The north Gangetic region has an area of 12,528 square miles, with a population of 8,025,311 souls; while the region south of the river has an area of 11,204 square miles inhabited by 5,233,362 souls. Thus the northern portion, which is not 10 per cent. larger, is 35 per cent. more populous.

The distribution of the population also into urban and rural differs in the one portion from what it is in the other. In the northern districts the urban population forms only 3 per cent. of the total, there is no town with a population over 50,000, and but 11 towns each with population over 5,000. In the southern districts, on the other hand, the urban is 10 per cent. on the gross population; there are four towns with from 30,000 to 140,000 inhabitants, 10 towns with populations between 10,000 and 30,000, and 12 towns with populations between 50,000 and 10,000 each."

He continues:

"It cannot be said that the condition of the population in either the northern or southern districts is at present satisfactory; but the future holds out brighter prospects to the people of Gya and Shahabad than it does to the inhabitants of Sarun and Tirhoot. The two great obstacles to the improvement of the former districts lies in the want of water for irrigation and in the prevalence of the *bhaoli* and *danabundi* systems of land tenure, which, differing in detail, agree in enforcing payment of the rent by a nearly equal division of the produce between cultivator and rent receiver. The former obstacle is being surmounted, the latter continues unabated.

Partly owing to customs of immemorial origin, partly owing to recent enhancements of rent, partly owing to a succession of unpropitious seasons, the result seems to be that the profits of agriculture, in ordinary years not more than sufficient to cover expenses and give a small margin of profit, fall below this low level in years but slightly adverse. They seem to be insufficient to enable the cultivator to save anything.

I attribute this unsatisfactory state of things in a very large degree to insecurity of tenure and to the high rates of rent which prevail; and these high rates of rent are due, in my opinion, less to the ordinary working of economic laws than to the mischievous system of farming out estates and villages which also largely prevails.

A proprietor in immediate want of money, or disinclined to perform by his property those duties which are correlative to his rights, assigns to a middleman the right of collecting and appropriating the rents payable by the ryots, on consideration of the present payment of a bonus (salami), and a future periodical payment of rent, not always less than what the proprietor had managed to collect direct. The farmer, or thikkadar,' as he is called in the vernacular, having no interest in the permanent well-being of the estate, has to recover within a stated time (usually nine years) the bonus, the rent he pays, and a profit; he enhances the ryot's rent, not always by the expensive method of an appeal to the courts. The ryots have thus to contend with the farmer backed up by the zemindar and in those parts of Tirhoot which, till recent changes, were under-officered, and therefore under-administered, the ryot always was worsted in the struggle. He paid an enhanced rent while the seasons were good; when a bad one came, he paid it by borrowing, or avoided payments by absconding. I do not of course say that all thikadars act, or have acted, as stated above, there are doubtless exceptions, but the rule is, I believe, as I have stated, and the result is that 'thikkadar' is not a word of good omen to the ryot in Tirhoot. There can be no doubt the system is radically and essentially bad, and should be discouraged; discreetly, it is true, but still with all the power of the administration."

There is only one remedy for this state of things. Let the Legislature fix the share of the ryot to the gross produce of land, and the evil so forcibly pointed out by Mr. MacDonnel will cure itself.

MR. MACDONNEL thus remarks on the effect of Indigo cultivation in Behar:

"This is not the place to discuss the indigo question, but it is worth while to consider whether the increasing pressure of population on the soil, and the precariousness of the subsistence afforded by it, except in fair years, will ultimately admit of large quantity of land being devoted to the growth of a staple which, though undoubtedly beneficial to the country, does not confer as directly tangible advantages on the people as other industries do. In these four northern districts of the Patna division there are about 220,000 acres of the most fertile upland devoted annually to the cultivation of indigo. In average years the subtraction of this quantity of land from the food-growing area, or from the area occupied with the production of those staples over the disposal of which the cultivator has entire control, does not cause inconvenience from a food-supply point of view. But in adverse years the retention for indigo cultivation of this land, which at a moderate calculation would yield 150,000 tons of food-grain, causes inconvenience to the people. I will not say that this inconvenience is not counterbalanced by advantages. I am not considering the general question: I am merely anxious to point out that the want of irrigation makes the inconvenience perceptible; and if that want remain unsatisfied, an increased perception of the inconvenience, or a decay of the indigo industry will probably result."

We wish Mr. MacDonnel would discuss the whole bearing of the question of Indigo cultivation as an economic question in the same spirit in which he has made the above remarks.

THE FOLLOWING statement gives the value of gold, silver and copper moneys coined in British India during the under-mentioned years:

	Gold.	Silver.	Copper	Total
	£	£	£	£
1865	95,971	10,485,865	229,861	10,811,397
1866	17,662	14,597,079	269,337	14,794,078
1867	27,717	6,182,668	143,566	6,353,951
1868	21,534	4,382,359	26,361	4,430,254
1869	25,156	5,341,708	90,219	5,457,083
1870	78,510	6,825,537	5,432	6,909,479
1871	3,994	1,234,084	6,121	1,244,199
1872	15,413	1,690,395	25,049	1,730,857
1873	31,795	3,981,433	10,509	4,023,731
1874	15,493	2,370,013	14,461	2,399,972

THE STATISTICAL REPORTER gives a statement of the traffic along the Diamond Harbour and Baraset roads from September to December 1875. The results are interesting, and show how considerable the traffic is that comes into Calcutta by these routes. Jute, for instance, amounts to 1,28,000 maunds during the four months, and this is entirely produce grown in the 24-Pergunnahs, Nuddea, and Jessore, in the immediate neighbourhood of Calcutta. The greater part of this jute is an export from the Baraset sub-division. The quantity of rice imported into Calcutta is 1,50,000 maunds. This is principally Diamond Harbour new rice, cut in December and promptly sent away into Calcutta. Almost the entire traffic along the Diamond Harbour road in December was rice and bundles of hay and straw.

TUESDAY, 7TH MARCH.

WE TAKE from a London paper the following amusing paragraph:

"Perhaps the most remarkable of the new street characters, which have become familiar to Londoners is, says a London paper, the Californian 'Professor of Arithmetic.' He may fairly be regarded as the king of street traders. Selecting the end of a street abutting on some large, but comparatively quiet, thoroughfare, such as the Pentonville-road, he drives up, about a couple of hours before dusk, in a handsomely appointed open brougham, driven by a negro servant in blue livery, with gold-laced hat and top-boots, in accordance with transatlantic fashion. He is accompanied by a lady somewhat elegantly attired, who plays with a large poodle dog which occupies a seat beside the driver.

With great deliberation he produces what seems to be a large folding chessboard, which, when opened, forms a black drawing-board. This he places on the easel. Then removing his hat, and taking a piece of chalk in his hand, he announces that he has discovered a wonderful system of calculation, whereby a student might learn more in a few hours than in as many years by the ordinary method.

He dilates on the many advantages arising from a knowledge of figures, maintaining that an ignorance of arithmetic is one of the principal causes of low wages, and illustrating his arguments with numerous anecdotes, which seem to be much relished by his hearers. He then, with the assistance of chalk diagrams on the blackboard, describes his system for learning arithmetic in a few hours, and offers for sale a number of handbooks containing a full account of his method. Although the price of these handbooks is one shilling each, they find a ready sale, and it is amusing to note the disappointed expression on the features of those who do not possess the requisite sum. The system advocated by the professor is ingenious, if not novel. It is a kind of shorthand arithmetic, and very useful in its way, as a rough-and-ready mode of calculation."

Oh! for the shade of Suvankar!

IT IS RUMOURED that *Vanity Fair* is about to change hands, its proprietor and editor, Mr. Bowles being on the eve of marriage with a lady possessing a large fortune who objects to journalism.

WITH THE beginning of this year State aid to religion in the colony of Victoria entirely ceased.

IT IS said that Theodore, son of the Abyssinian monarch, who has been for some time pursuing his studies in England has become so thoroughly Anglicised as to have forgotten his native language. We doubt.

CHILI IS the first country in the world that has admitted women to the electoral franchise.

AT THE Government Gardens in Monghyr are some gigantic sunflowers measuring nearly five feet in circumference.

IT IS said that the new German law which allows of civil marriages and civil registration of baptisms, is going to ruin the clergy by depriving them of one-half their income. If the bond of union between the people and the clergyman is so very slight that the greater part of the people will be ready to avail themselves of the first permission given to dispense with the services of the clergymen, then it seems to us that the rupture is not of much consequence.

THE AUTHORS of those very naughty books, the "Coming K" and the "Siliad," not forgetting "John Duan" Esq., have published another in the same vein *viz.* "Edward VI."

THE VERDICT of the jury appointed to inquire into the late dreadful accident at Abott's Ripton have announced their verdict. They find that "the deaths of the 13 persons on whose bodies we have held inquest were caused by the down express cutting through the up express in which they were travelling, the up express, having been previously thrown off its own line in consequence of coming into collision with a coal train while shunting at the Abbott's Ripton siding, the block system having proved inefficient in a case of emergency." They then add these remarkable words. "We beg to add that we consider the directors are highly reprehensible in endeavouring to conduct so heavy a mineral traffic as that of the Great Northern without providing a special line of rails for its transit."

WEDNESDAY, 8TH MARCH.

IT IS stated that the people of the United States have invested about £97,000,000 of their own money and to have borrowed £46,000,000 from abroad for railway enterprise that are now unable to pay their way, or that have been reconstructed at a heavy sacrifice. This is exclusive of unproductive share capital, of capital on which the loss has been merely temporary, and of the losses made by private adventurers, and those who trusted them, on unissued bonds.

WE RECORDED last week the discontinuance of the *South India Times*. It would appear that the paper has ceased to exist owing to the death of its proprietor Mr. Vencata Rao. That gentleman, says the *Bangalore Examiner*, came of a very old and highly respectable family of Maharatta Brahmins of the Tanjore district, his father and other relatives having been in the service of the late Maharajah of Mysore. His grand-uncle is the present Sir Mahdava Rao, Dewan of Baroda, and his uncle Ragoonatha Rao, Deputy Collector of the Madras Presidency, but at present Dewan of the Indore State. He was in the twenty-sixth year of his age when he died, and yet, during that time, we are told, such was the natural bent of his mind that he did more for the intellectual progress of his countrymen than many an older head amongst them. He was a staunch member of the Masonic body, and, at the time of his death, had taken the Royal Arch degree. He was an active and zealous member of the "Rock lodge," No. 260, of Trichinopoly.

THE PUNJAB GOVERNMENT has recorded a Resolution on the subject of the formation of local Committees for carrying out Act XX of 1871, the Punjab Local Rates Act. After enumerating the officers, who are to form official members, the Resolution says that the Deputy Commissioner shall be President of the Committee, and in his absence the senior Assistant Commissioner shall preside. There shall be an English and a Native Secretary, being a Government official. It is declared that the non-official members shall consist of the most intelligent and capable of the land owners of the district. To this class nominations should generally be confined, the funds being raised from the agricultural population and expended for their benefit. At the same time residents of towns, not being landowners, are not disqualified should their presence and influence in the committee be desirable. Non-official members will hold their appointments for two years, but will be eligible for re-appointment. Members not attending the meetings of the committee once in the half year shall be held to have vacated their appointments. The last rule is very hard. Absence from a single meeting ought not to cancel the appointment of a member.

AT A MEETING at Edinbourgh there was a discussion on the colors of flowers and the date of their flowering. Taking 909 species of British flora, 207 were found to have white flowers, 238 yellow, 144 red, 94 purple, 87 blue, the remainder being green and other colors. Of the blue flowers, 16 per cent. were blown in April; 14 per cent. of the white flowers also in that month, but only 9 per cent. of the reds, the yellow being very close to the latter. It would appear that the blue were far ahead of the red and yellow, the white being intermediate, while the purples and greens came in between the blues and the reds.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS for the 5th ultimo gives a portrait of Raja Harendra Krishna Bahadur. The picture is not a faithful likeness. The editor gives the following letter-press :

"The portrait of Raja Harendra Krishna, a member of the Bengal Legislative Council, is engraved from a photograph taken at Calcutta. This Bengalee gentleman, who has the rank of Bahadur and Raja, is the head of the Sobha-bazar family, attached friends of the British interest since the days of Lord Clive. It will be found, in the history of British Indian progress that both Clive and Hastings repeatedly acknowledged the valuable services of Nava Krishna, who died in 1795. The present Kumar Harendra Krishna, his great grandson, has been in the Bengal Government service since 1851, and has been commended and promoted. His father, the late Raja Kali Krishna was one of the most eminent of Sanskrit scholars. The merits of his literary and historical researches were known in Europe as well as in his own country, and he received gold medals and complimentary letters from many high quarters. He was a corresponding member of the Royal Asiatic Society during thirty years."

THE PUNJAB GOVERNMENT has issued the following notification :

"The Hon'ble the Lieutenant Governor is pleased to direct that, from the 1st day of January 1876, no person shall, save under the special sanction of government, be appointed or promoted to an office in any Civil Department under the control of the local government, the salary of which office exceeds Rs. 25 a month, unless he can produce a certificate of having passed the examination of the Educational Department, known as the Middle School Examination (the particulars of which are set forth in an appendix to this Notification), &c. &c."

We are afraid that this notification will be more honored in the breach than in the observance thereof.

Babu Umbica Proshad Naryan Sing, who has addressed us on the subject of deficient means and appliances for educational purposes in the district of Goruckpore, will do well to start a school with the aid of his fellow-villagers, and we make no doubt that Government aid will be granted on his fulfilling the conditions of grants-in-aid.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to us to say that in view to the extension of the Northern Bengal State Railway to Assam a survey has been sanctioned and engineers and subordinates are being fast posted for the survey work and that Captain Trevor has been appointed Examiner of the Northern Bengal State Railway accounts in supercession of Mr. Moore transferred to Oudh.

THURSDAY, 9TH MARCH.

WE ARE GLAD to learn that Raja Amir Hossain Khan of Mahmoodabad, Oudh, who is now in Calcutta, has offered a prize of Rs. 100 to the best Arabic student who has gained the highest number of marks in Arabic in the last B. A. Examination of the Calcutta University.

AN OFFICIAL return of owners of land in England and Wales exclusive of the metropolis has been lately compiled and we take from the English papers the following facts gleaned from the return. There are in England and Wales 972,836 owners of land, of whom 703,289 hold less than one acre, and 269,547 hold one acre and upwards. The properties held by the colleges of Universities of Oxford and Cambridge amount in the aggregate to 235,553 acres with a gross estimated rental of £411,564. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners hold property amounting in the aggregate to 69,503 acres with a gross estimated rental of £31,292.

A REVIEWER in the *London Examiner* of the 3rd Vol. of the last edition of the Encyclopædia Britanicca in alluding to Dr. Hunter's article on "Bengal" and some other Indian, subjects thus compliments the new method of spelling Indian names adopted by the Doctor and approved by the Government of India. "We fear he (Dr. Hunter) is himself mainly responsible for the pedantic orthography prescribed by the Indian Government to which he naturally adheres, but which can only be characterised as a gratuitous stumbling-block."

THE BEHAR HERALD says that in the teeth of the strong and fresh injunction of the Lieutenant Governor against Police torture, a most daring case of the nature has just occurred at Bankipore, the Head-Quarters of the Commissioner. An old woman suspected to have stolen the ornaments of her mistress, was it is stated most brutally tortured by three constables with a view to extort confessions. The case was promptly taken up by Mr. Wilkins, whose energy in the matter is deserving of all praise, and we hear that the charge has been brought home to the offenders. We trust a severe example will be made of the men.

A BRAHMAN, who not long ago matriculated at the Madras University, has just accepted the post of clerk to a Mofussil Bar Library, on a salary of Rs. 5 per mensem. His duties include those of a Librarian, Bill Collector, and Porter. What next and next?

AS AN instance of the kindness of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales to the Natives, Dr. Russel relates the following anecdote :—"As the Prince was returning along the terrace, [of the Taj at Agra] he observed a European in plain clothes rudely pushing a Native gentleman to clear the way. He at once despatched a gentleman of his suite to express his strong displeasure at such a proceeding. The Duke of Sutherland and others also rebuked the man, who seemed quite astonished, and probably was only acting as he had been accustomed to do. He was understood to be an official. The Natives standing round were ignorant of the word addressed to the zealous agent, but the fact ought to be known. The Prince utterly disapproves such conduct."

AMENITIES OF JOURNALISM. There has been a pleasing interchange of civilities lately between the *Bombay Gazette* and the *Times of India*. "Every one knows," says the former paper, "that the Colonel (the chief proprietor of the *Times of India*) is a great goose." And the Colonel Editor blandly replies that the *Gazette* man is a "born cad."

MR. DADABHOY Hurjwundas Nanawutti, B. A. formerly an Interpreter of the Bombay High Court, and now the Head Sheristadar of the Ahmedabad Court, will be appointed Native Assistant Resident of Baroda.

DR. MONIER WILLIAMS made the following remarks at the Bombay Royal Asiatic Society :

"I have often been asked while I have been in India, why should the Indian candidates for the Civil service be sent to England to be examined. I really do not see for my own part why Indians should not be examined in India, but I think that every selected candidate for the Indian Civil service ought to be absolutely compelled to go to England for his two years' training, that he may learn what England really is, and take note of her vast power and resources. I for my own part regret very much that the Government scholarships for aiding men to go to England have been abolished. I think that these scholarships ought to be re-established and far more generally and universally than before; so that deserving men everywhere may be helped to visit England.

We hope Dr. Williams will agitate these questions on return home.

FRIDAY, 10TH MARCH.

"IT IS seldom," says the *Bombay Gazette*, "that Indian Theatres are amused by anything like political displays of feelings but last night at Grand Road Theatre something very like a political 'scene' occurred. In the course of an excellent performance by Lewis's Company of Planche's extravaganza 'The Island of Pearls,' Mr. Henry Aveling, in the character of "Gilt Gingerbread the Great, King of Pharitale," sung the following song :—

Oh! this is a land of deception,
And dekna-ka-wasta's the rule,
Things are not what they seem on inspection
Who thinks that they are is a fool.
Native loyalty's all on the surface,
Education's nothing but sham.
Each native puts on a demure face,
Which we all know is nothing but sham.
The rupee that was made as two shillings,
Is now only worth one-and-nine,
We have wars in which there are no killings,
But medals for all in the line.
We can e'en manufacture a famine,
While the people with food we all cram,
The square men the round holes
They now ram in,
Now what is this all but a sham?

The chorus is—

It's a sham.
It's the shammiest land you ever yet have seen.
All is cram.
Who crams most,
Most successful he will be.

Whether or not it was that the Governor had previously ordered his carriage and it now happened to be ready, or that he thought he was bound to protest against the gubernatorial institutions of the country being alluded to in anything but tones of the deepest respect, His Excellency at the conclusion of the ditty rose and left the Theatre. But the actors were not hauled up by the Police! Would such a performance come under the new Ordinance?

A CORRESPONDENT thus writes to us from Ampta under date the 8th instant :

"Last week we got here good showers of rain successively for two days. It has done much good, more especially to the potatoes and melon plants &c., which were all drying up for want of it to the utter desperation of the cultivators. Happily the plants are now thriving. Last year sugar cane having well grown up in this part of the country, cultivators are extending its cultivation this year to a great extent. The price of paddy somewhat increased from Rupee 1-1 to Rupee 1-2-6. This has happened as there have not been sufficient imports of late."

A CORRESPONDENT thus notices the death of Babu Kedarnath Mullick :

"I have just heard from Manbhoom of the death, on the 26th ultimo from consumption, of Babu Kedarnath Mullick, (late Sheristadar of the Judge's Court, 24-Pergunnahs) Deputy Magistrate and Collector. The deceased was a highly educated gentleman of great experience and remarkable intelligence. He had just been transferred from Sylhet (where he suffered extremely from the evil effects of climate) to Manbhoom. The Babu had scarcely been a week at the latter station, when he was summoned away by the Most High."

WE HAVE received the following death return of the Suburbs of Calcutta for January :

"The mortuary return of the suburbs for the month of January 1876, shows the number of deaths to be 1308, viz. 22 Christians, 854 Hindoos and 432 Mahomedans. The rates of mortality per thousand of the population per year is 61·03 and the causes of the disease were Cholera 171, Small-pox 21, Fever 457, Bowel Complaints 328 and the rest from all other causes."

A PLANTING gentleman, writing to us from Katlee under date the 7th instant, says : The rain we had here on the 2nd has done a world of good. No rain had fallen previously in this quarter since the 17th of October, but I am happy to say the cold weather crops have turned out remarkably well all over this sub-division."

THE COLLECTOR of Cuddapa has issued the following notice :

"Low caste people are in the habit of eating the flesh of diseased animals. They are hereby warned not to eat or touch the flesh and any other part of sheep or other animals which have died of the foot-disease called Paduvan, or the disease of fits called Periyan. Many persons have died by so doing. Their hands and other parts swelled and they suffered great pain. All animals which die of these diseases ought to be immediately buried. Village Reddies must tell this to the people of their village."

SATURDAY, 11TH MARCH.

THE MADRAS Government lately enquired about the employment of Mahomedans in the public service and has come to the following conclusion :

"There is no reason to doubt that a great obstacle to the more general employment of Mahomedans in the public service is the absence of effort on their own part to qualify themselves educationally or other than the lowest posts. The Government trust that the efforts now being made to promote their education will bear fruit in the near future.

The same remarks apply to the other provinces.

THE GOVERNMENT of India has issued the following notification :

The Viceroy and Governor General in Council has the highest gratification in announcing that in commemoration of the visit to India of Field Marshal His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales the Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint His Royal Highness to be Honorary Colonel of the following Regiments :—

11th Bengal Lancers
2nd Bengal Native Light Infantry
2nd Goorkha (the Sirmoor Rifle) Regiment
The Corps of Guides
The Corps of Madras Sappers and Miners
4th Madras Light Cavalry
3rd Bombay Light Cavalry
2nd Bombay Native Infantry (Grenadiers)

Her Majesty has been further graciously pleased to confer on the following Corps the distinction of being styled "Queen's Own" and of wearing on their colors and appointments the Royal Cypher within the Garter —

2nd Bengal Native Light Infantry
The Corps of Guides
The Corps of Madras Sappers and Miners
3rd Bombay Light Cavalry

and on the following Corps the distinction of being styled the "Prince of Wales' Own" and of wearing the Prince of Wales' Plume on their colors and appointments :—

11th Bengal Lancers
2nd Goorkha (the Sirmoor Rifle) Regiment
4th Madras Light Cavalry
2nd Bombay Native Infantry (Grenadiers)

WITH THE approval of the Governor General in Council, the Honorable the Chief Justice of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal has appointed Mr. J. C. Geddes, C. S., for a period not exceeding three months, to revise the forms and accounts submitted to the High Court and to codify the rules and circulars issued by the High Court. Mr.

Digitized with financial assistance from the National Archives of India on 07 August, 2017

Ward goes to Assam to act for Mr. Geddes for three months

THE ASIATIC SOCIETY is very fortunate. There being not sufficient accommodation in the new Museum building for the Society, the Government has offered it a capital sum of Rs. 150,000 as compensation with permission to occupy its own building. A Bill has been introduced to legalize this grant.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week :

London, 6th March.—THE *Times* to-day, reviewing the tour of the Prince of Wales in India, considers that the time has arrived to associate the leading men in Indian life in the practical work of administration. The loyalty and generosity which have been displayed by the Native Chiefs are a proof of their acceptance of English rule; and it is necessary to take advantage of this feeling in order to indentify ourselves with the people, and the people with ourselves. Don Carlos has arrived in London, and still maintains the rights for which he has been combating in Spain.

7th March.—IN the House of Commons last night Mr. Disraeli, replying to a question, informed the House that Government declined to nominate a Commissioner to assist in the control of the Egyptian National Bank ; but should the proposal be made to appoint a Commissioner to receive the Egyptian revenue, and apply it to the redemption of the existing debt, Government might consider the expediency of making the appointment.

7th March.—IN the House of Commons, Sir. Henry A. Wolff gave notice that on the 7th instant he should move for an address to Her Majesty asking that steps be taken to obtain neutrality in the control of the Suez Canal under international guarantees.

8th March.—REPLYING to a question of Mr. Samuelson in the House of Commons last night, Mr. Disraeli said that at present he was not prepared to state what the new title of Her Majesty would be. The Press, commenting thereon this morning blame the Prime Ministers reticence. Mr Lange is generally condemned for publication of letters which he addressed to Earl Granville in 1871 on matters connected with the Suez Canal.

10th.—The Prime Minister this evening announced to the House that the additional title that Her Majesty the Queen would take was that of Empress of India. After some discussion, Mr. Samuelson moved for an adjournment of the debate. Mr. Gladstone objected to the title, on the ground that it might affect the status of the independent Princes of India ultimately. Mr. Samuelson's motion was rejected by 284 against 31 votes; and the Bill was read a second time. Sir Erskine Perry and Sir Robert Montgomery, Members of the Indian Council, dissent from the despatch of November last, from the Secretary of State for India to the Viceroy, which has just been presented to Parliament, concerning the cotton duties. In a minute the Marquis of Salisbury says that his objection to the action of the Indian Government was the remission of unobjectionable duties

Paris, 10th March.—The following modifications in the construction of the French Ministry have been announced. Mr. Dufaure becomes Minister of the Interior in succession to Buffet. Dux Decazes, Leon Say and General Cissey retain their portfolios as ministers of Foreign Affairs, Finance and for war respectively, the other members of the cabinet belong to left centre. Articles have appeared in the republican organs disapproving of these changes.

Vienna 10th March.—There was an engagement near Goraiskm on 6th instant between the Turkish troops and insurgents in which the former were severely defeated with loss of their Artillery and 800 killed, besides many wounded.

MR. JAMES ROUTLEDGE has written a letter to the *London Examiner* in which he pays a glowing tribute of respect to the memory of the late Mr. Lobb The encomiums which the writer bestows on the deceased scholar are eminently just. He trusts that "England may send other men to India to live and labour and die, as Samuel Lobb lived and laboured and died."

DEATH has snatched away another member of the Subordinate Executive Service, Babu Mohimchunder Pal, Deputy Magistrate in charge of the Barripore Sub-division. He rose from the amla class and did his work well.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals :—1. Report of the Administration of the N. W. P. for 1874-75. 2. Reprint of Todd's Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan, published by Hurimohun Mookerjee Vol. II No. XIII. 3. Subda-Kulpu Druma or the Sanskrit Dictionary of the late Sir Raja Radhakant Bahadur Vol. IV Nos. 7 and 8. Second Edition. 4. Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal No. 1 January 1876. 5. The Anglo-Indian Commercial Advertiser. No. 66, January 1876. 6. Wyman and Co.'s Descriptive Catalogue of plain ornamental type. 7. Bunga Durshana, Vol. IV No 9 for Pous 1282 B.S. 8. Annual Report of the National Indian Association for 1875.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, MARCH 13, 1876.

LORD NORTHBROOK'S ADMINISTRATION.

LORD NORTHBROOK'S Administration is about to pass into the domain of History. In four weeks more the Czar of the East as the English Viceroy of India is not inaptly called will lay down his sceptre, and an important chapter in the History of British Rule in India will be completed. To understand thoroughly the character and policy of the present administration the reader will do well to look back to the past—to traverse in fact over the region of time embracing the direct administration of the country by the Crown. The Sepoy Mutiny of '57 closed the history of the great and glorious John Company, which founded, extended, and consolidated the British Empire in the East—an Empire which is at once a source of power and pride to England and which has solved a complex political problem to the just admiration of the civilized world. The Mutiny was an accident, but the tragic events which marked its course had filled the English nation with such intense indignation and horror that in hot haste it determined to hang the Company, which was directly responsible for the peace and good government of British India. The Company was abolished, and the Government of India was transferred to the Crown. It was not a mere formal transfer—it was not a mere change of hands for the use of the sceptre and seal. It was the commencement of a new era, a new policy, a new regime. The Revolution was inaugurated on the memorable first day of November 1858 with a gracious Proclamation from Her Majesty the Queen, which is justly regarded as a charter of the civil and religious liberty of the princes and people of India. It was believed that the Company's policy was too conservative and traditional, that it did not give a sufficient impetus to progress and enterprise, that it did not take the people into confidence in the administration of the country. Hence momentous changes were effected on the transfer of Government from the Company to the Crown. The long-talked-of amalgamation of the Supreme and Sudder Courts was carried out and a native was placed on the bench of the Bengal High Court. The old Legislative Council was abolished and local Councils were established instead with an admixture of the non-official element both European and Native. The Mutiny had made long inroads upon the exchequer and new taxes were imposed to replenish it. The Police was reorganized and new rules were laid down for the settlement of waste lands for the encouragement of European enterprise. The Civil and Military Departments were revised and reorganized, a new system of accounts was introduced, and a new impetus was imparted to the execution of works of public utility. All these changes were inaugurated in the reign of Lord Canning. That statesman was carried headlong by the current of events. His successors from Lord Elgin to Lord Mayo pursued with vigor the policy of progress. Lord Elgin did not live long to mature his policy. Sir William Denison acted for him for a short time. Sir John Lawrence succeeded him. Sir John, though himself a cautious man, allowed himself to drift along. Then came Lord Mayo, and in his reign the progressive policy as it was called, reached the culminating point. Change, change, change, was the order of the day. Change in legislation, change in administration, change in the mode of taxation, in fact change in every thing. If every change meant progress few would quarrel with the Government, but such was not the case. The Legislative Council fulfilled to the letter the saying of Lord Elenborough—it was a Standing Committee of Changes. Messrs. Maine and Stephen contrived to effect quite a revolution in the laws of India. We do not mean to say that some good laws were not passed, but there was such a constant ring of changes that what the people had learnt yesterday they had to unlearn to-day. And we do not see that the country has been the better for these changes. On the contrary the rights and liberties of the people are now more at the mercy of the courts and the executive authorities than they were before. The reign of law has not progressed—rather the sphere of discretionary government has enlarged. A code of criminal procedure has been prescribed, the main object of which is simply to increase the discretion of the courts and to augment the power of the Executive Government. The change in administration was a multiplication of departments, and consequently attended with a large increase of expenditure, so much so that if the establishments before 1857 were compared with those subsequently created, it would be found that in some cases they had nearly doubled, and all this without one acre being added to the area of the empire. Then new works of gigantic proportions were under-taken, works conceived in haste and carried out with still greater haste, so much so that some of them fell down as soon as they were set up, giving an indubitable proof of the efficiency of the Public Works Department. None condemned the working of the department more strongly than Lord Mayo did in some of his Resolutions, and yet his Lordship announced a year before his death schemes of improvements, which in round numbers would have cost 80 to 90 crores of rupees. Thus his Lordship stated in his Budget speech of 1871 that there were irrigation projects, which would cost, 36 millions, Railway projects 26 to 28 millions, municipal works 10 millions, and land improvements 3 millions. "Speaking roughly and looking forward according to our present lights," said his Lordship, "we cannot think that anything less than a sum of 80 or 90 millions will be required to be borrowed for those purposes, which we think indispensable to the improvement of the country and the welfare of the people." The policy which was pursued for more than a decade since the transfer of the Government from the Company to the Crown as a matter of course resulted in increase of expenditure and taxation. The revenue has expanded with the development of trade and industry, but this expansion has not kept pace with the increase of expenditure. Taxes both direct and indirect were increased manifold. The Salt tax was increased, the Stamp duties were increased, the land tax was increased by new settlements, a certificate tax was imposed, a duty was imposed upon rice, the Tariff duties were increased, the Income tax was thrice imposed, and the rate of the tax was varied from time to time, a non-agricultural cess was imposed in Bombay, a road cess in Bengal, a house-tax in Madras, and local rates in the Punjab, North Western Provinces and Oudh. This is a formidable list of additional taxes, and it was a logical sequence of the so-called progressive policy inaugurated on the transfer of the Indian Government from the Company to the Crown. The result was deep discontent through the length and breadth of the land. Meetings were held and petitions were made to Parliament praying for a Royal Commission of Enquiry. Although this prayer was not granted Mr. Gladstone himself moved the appointment of a Select Committee on Indian Finance. The object of that move was to allay the public mind in India. Those that were in India at the time could only gauge the depth of discontent raging through the length and breadth of the land. Mr. John Bruce Norton than whom a more observant man did not come to the country and a warmer friend to the natives did not breathe, said that he never remembered that such profound discontent had ever prevailed in India. Lord Napier of Magdala was so alarmed by this popular discontent that he recommended the addition of new regiments to the Indian army. Lord Mayo himself recorded his opinion (*vide* papers laid before Parliament relating to military expenditure in India) that "a feeling of discontent and dissatisfaction existed among every class, both European and Native, on account of the constant increase of taxation, which had for years been going on," and his belief that "the continuance of that feeling was a political danger, the magnitude of which could hardly be over-estimated."

At such a time as this Lord Northbrook came out to assume the reins of the Government of India. In one of the welcome addresses, which poured in on his arrival the popular feeling was thus expressed : "If the administration of India for the last few years points to any one thing more than another—it is this, the necessity of giving her rest—rest from over-legislation, from over-taxation, from over-anxiety for change in the name of progress, from over-activity for ambitious administrative improvements. And it is a matter of sincere congratulation to us that this violent tendency in Indian administration has not escaped the observant eyes of your Lordship." In reply to this address Lord Northbrook said: "The great principles of Indian policy as you observe in this address were clearly laid down by the gracious Proclamation which was issued by Her Majesty on assuming the direct Government of India. That England desire no territo-

rial aggrandisement—that equal justice shall be dealt to all—that any attempt at disorder will be promptly repressed—that religious liberty shall be maintained—and that the feelings and interests of all classes and creeds shall be duly considered—to these principles, as it is my duty so it is my desire strictly to adhere." And his Lordship has nobly performed his duty.

Lord Northbrook's first attempt was to allay the irritation of the public mind in regard to taxation. In a minute dated the 14th April 1873 his Lordship recorded his opinion on the subject of finance and taxation. His Lordship wrote: "When I was appointed to succeed the Earl of Mayo, it was not known whether the Budget for the year 1872-73 would be introduced at once, or deferred until my arrival in India. My attention, therefore, was particularly directed to financial questions before I left England." Thus his Lordship's mission was as it were to lighten the burdens upon the people of India. In the same minute his Lordship remarked:

By the considerate action of His Excellency Lord Napier and Ettrick I was relieved from the responsibility of dealing with the Budget of 1872 73. The estimates for that year showed a small deficit without the income tax, and it was continued for a year longer as a provisional arrangement, upon the understanding that the question would be considered by the Government after any arrival in India, and that the tax should be abandoned, or a deliberate proposal made to maintain it as an integral part of the financial system. Sir John (then Mr.) Strachey, the senior Member of Council, observed in debate that the question then before the Council was—

"Merely to maintain the present financial arrangements of the Empire for this year, in order to leave the coming Viceroy an opportunity to consider thoroughly the whole subject of the financial policy for the future before being committed to any important measures."

Since my arrival in India, I have spared no trouble to ascertain whether the opinions expressed in 1871 as to the existence of discontent throughout a considerable part of the country were correct or not; and in the autumn of last year a circular was addressed to the several Local Governments and administrations calling for reports upon the subject. The reports were received in the course of the winter. In the mean time, I had endeavoured to make myself acquainted with the various financial questions which had been recently under discussion.

Such, briefly, was the position in which I was placed and in which the question of the income tax stood at the end of February last, when the first reliable estimate of the financial prospects of the year 1873-74 was formed, and it was ascertained that, without re-imposing the income tax (which would expire on the 31st of March 1873) there would probably be a surplus of from £200,000 to £300,000.

The first question that the Government had to determine was whether the present and prospective condition of the finances was such as to require the imposition of additional taxation.

The conclusions at which we arrived are thus expressed in our Resolution of the 28th of March:—

"A comparison between the estimate of the ordinary revenue and expenditure for the year 1873-74 shows a surplus of £220,000.

The cash balance in India at the commencement of the year is estimated at £19,300,000, and at the end of the year at £14,800,000 after providing for our expenditure of £3,878,000 on reproductive works, which, under ordinary circumstances, would have been met from loan funds.

The general condition of the finances is therefore satisfactory. Although the estimated surplus for the year 1873-74 is small, the estimates, both of revenue and expenditure, have been framed with caution; the estimate of the net receipts from opium is £5,385,000 which is less by 2½ millions than the receipts of 1871-72, and by 1½ million than the receipts of 1872-73; and the state of the cash balances prevents any risk of financial difficulty during the year.

With respect to the future, His Excellency in Council believes that no additional taxation is required for the purpose of maintaining the finances of India in a sound and satisfactory condition. Besides the gradual expansion of the revenue which may reasonably be expected, there will be, in the course of the years 1874-75 and 1875-76, a reduction of expenditure of nearly half a million per annum, in consequence of the time having arrived when the stock of the East India Company will be paid off. Any increase of expenditure which may be necessary in some branches of the public service may, His Excellency in Council believes, be met by economy in others. The schemes for public works chargeable to loan funds have been revised; and, so far as reliance can be placed upon careful estimates, the completion of the system of guaranteed railways and the construction by Government of the railway and irrigation works now sanctioned or contemplated, will not entail any serious additional charge upon the annual revenues. The Government of India has, therefore, decided that it is not necessary, with reference to the present or prospective condition of the finances, that the income tax should be re-imposed, or that any other tax should be imposed in addition to the existing sources of revenue."

His Lordship scouted the idea of strengthening the surplus by keeping up taxation. He wrote: "As will be seen from the figures quoted in paragraph 12, the financial policy of late years has not been framed with a view to secure a surplus at all equal to that which had been suggested by the Secretary of State; indeed when Sir Richard Temple in 1870 proposed to increase the surplus very considerably by a reduction of expenditure upon public works, and an increase in the income tax or the salt tax, his views did not meet with the concurrence of the Government of India or of the Secretary of State." His Lordship then instituted an elaborate comparison between income and expenditure of the past years, and came to the conclusion that additional taxation was not necessary. His Lordship took a decided stand against waste of money upon Military Public Works. He remarked:

"With respect to the future, I fully recognize the importance of good barrack accommodation for the soldier; but if extravagant expenditure is to be avoided in Public Works of this kind, estimates and designs must be produced and considered before the works are commenced, and measures must be taken to ensure their economical and efficient construction. I regret to say that both as regards original design and efficient and economical construction, Military Public Works in India have hitherto been exceedingly faulty, and that large sums of public money have been wasted. The Earl of Mayo felt the necessity of a thorough change of system, and shortly before his death introduced several changes into the Public Works Department; it has, therefore been during this year in a state of transition, and still requires the careful attention of the Government. For my own part, until I am satisfied that a thoroughly sound and satisfactory system is established and at work, I cannot be a party to any large expenditure upon Military Works."

His Lordship then determined to abandon some of the ambitious and expensive Works projected by Lord Mayo's Government:

	Intended capital outlay. £
Sardah Canal in Oudh	3,000,000
Rohree Canal in Sindh	1,700,000
Lower Sutlej Canal Punjab	3,000,000
Kanhan Project. Central Provinces ...	300,000
Moota Project. Bombay, reduced by about ...	100,000
Taptee Project, ditto, (suspended) ...	394,000
Other projects in Bombay, about ...	200,000
TOTAL ...	8,694,000

His Lordship's policy was certainly not to stand still. He made a forecaste of public works extraordinary, which he distributed as follows:

	£
1873-74	2.106.897
1874-75	1.994.078
1875-76	1.970.678
1876-77	1.962.638
1877-78	1,982,978

His Lordship remarked that "so far as reliance can be placed upon careful estimates, the completion of the system of Guaranteed Railways and the construction by Government of the Railway and Irrigation Works, now sanctioned or contemplated, will not entail any serious additional charge upon the annual revenues."

Then it was urged that additional taxation ought to be resorted to with a view to reduce the debt. Lord Northbrook thus replied:

"I quite agree that it may occasionally be expedient to use the surplus, which the Government may have at its command, for the purpose of reducing debt rather than of remitting taxes; but I cannot recognize the obligation of imposing taxes which are not required for the purpose of establishing an equilibrium between the income and expenditure of the year, in order to balance the accounts of a series of years, and to provide for a deficit which occurred long ago, and for which provision was then made.

I have now, I trust, sufficiently explained the reasons which have led me to the conclusion that no additional taxation, whether by the re-imposition of the Income tax, or by the imposition of other taxes, is required for the purpose of securing the safety of the finances under ordinary circumstances. Calamities such as war or famine have been left out of consideration, because provision must be made for them apart from any ordinary financial calculations, should the necessity unfortunately arise."

We have here the broad lines of Lord Northbrook's financial policy laid down in the first year of his administration. His Lordship thus discussed the question of taxation, particularly the Income tax:

"The question which the Government had next to consider was whether, although additional taxation is not required in order to provide for the safety of the finances, an Income tax ought or ought not to be imposed as a part of the ordinary taxation of India.

I use the word 'imposed' advisedly; because, although the Income tax has been employed, since 1869, year after year at varying rates for the purpose of adjusting the estimated deficiencies of successive budgets, it is very generally agreed that it would not be good policy to continue so to deal with the tax, and that if re-imposed at all, it must be with the avowed object of incorporating it permanently into the financial system of India.

I must now revert to the answers to the circular which was addressed to the several Local Governments last autumn.

First, with regard to local taxation. Considerable dissatisfaction was reported to exist on account of local taxes which had been recently imposed or were then contemplated. There were complaints against a direct tax, called the Non-agricultural tax, affecting the great mass of the people which had been imposed in 1871 in the Presidency of Bombay and against the House tax which had been recently brought into force to provide for elementary education in the Madras Presidency. The Local cess levied upon land in Oudh was said by the Chief Commissioner to cause dissatisfaction. Some complaints were made against the cess on the lands under Permanent Settlement in the North-Western Provinces; and considerable apprehension was felt by the people in Bengal, both as to the operation of the Road Cess Act, and as to the effect of a Bill, which had passed the Bengal Legislative Council, for the purpose of amending and consolidating the Municipal law and which awaited my sanction.

The views of the Government with respect to local taxation are expressed in the Resolution of the 21st of March last. The Government of Bombay had already spontaneously given up the Non-agricultural tax; and we were aware that the Government of Madras intended to dispense with the House-tax,—an intention which has since been carried into effect. I had felt it to be my duty to withhold my assent from the Bengal Municipalities Bill. There remained, therefore, only the Local cess in Oudh, the cess on lands permanently settled in the North-Western Provinces, and the Road cess in Bengal. For the reasons given in the Resolution of March 21st, we considered it unadvisable to encourage any expectation that those cesses would be remitted.

We had, therefore, to consider the Income tax apart from the question of remitting any Local taxes. In the replies from the Local Governments, no serious complaints were reported against any Imperial tax with the exception of the Income tax. The great discontent which was caused by the increase of that tax in 1869 and again in 1870 had sensibly diminished in consequence of the modifications made in 1871 and 1872, and because there had been no re-assessment of the tax during those years; there was, however, a great preponderance of opinion against the tax. In fact, with the exception of the Government of Bombay and the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, no high authority gave any support to the tax except as a necessary evil, or coupled with conditions,—such as the exemption of incomes derived from land, or the application of the proceeds of the tax to local objects,—which would have destroyed its value as a powerful engine of Imperial finance. I shall not here quote extracts from any of the answers from the Local authorities, but I have caused such portions of them as refer to the Income tax, to be extracted and printed as an Appendix to this Minute. I think they will be found to confirm what I have said with regard to their purport. If the opinions of the different Governments are unfavourable to the tax, those of the Local officers generally are far more so. In fact, it would seem that the greater the practical experience of an officer in the working of the Income tax, the stronger usually is the objection which he entertains to it.

The minute from which we give the above extracts occurs in a Parliamentary blue-book, but has not been published separately in India, and as the question of the Income tax embraced the whole question of finance and taxation as viewed by Lord Northbrook we give the following extract, which though long, will amply repay perusal:

"The present Financial Member of Council cordially supports the Income tax, and considers it "just as suited in most respects, neither more nor less, to India as to England." He would not "contemplate the remission of the Income tax until we are able to produce a Budget Estimate with a surplus of one million and a half at the very least."

On the other hand, Sir Richard Temple's three predecessors have recently expressed very different opinions in their evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons now sitting upon Indian Finance:——

Mr. Laing thinks the Income tax "is about as bad and obnoxious a mode of raising revenue as it is possible to imagine in a country like India."

Sir Charles Trevelyan holds the Income tax to be "totally unsuited to the character and habits of the Natives of India, and singularly odious to them." Mr. Massey, having pointed out the objections to the maintenance of the tax, even at a low rate, said that "nothing on earth should induce him to hold office in India as the Financial Minister if the condition imposed on him was the maintenance of an Income tax as an ordinary source of revenue."

Lord Napier of Magdala and Mr. Ellis support the Income tax, and Major-General Norman and Mr. Bayley oppose it. Among members of the Executive Council, who have recently expressed an opinion on the subject, Sir John Strachey advocated the continuance of the tax; I have already alluded to the strong opinion against it which was entertained by Sir Henry Durand; and Sir William Grey stated his views before leaving India two years ago in the following forcible language:—

There is, it may be confidently affirmed, no country in the world to which all those objections to a tax on incomes, which are applicable generally to all countries, have greater applicability than to India, while the advantages, which are by theory supposed to attach to direct taxation, have no existence in a country where there is no form even of representive Government. The people are quite unable to defend themselves against the rapacity or excessive zeal of the agents employed in the assessment and collection of such tax; they are exposed to the intrigues of interested or malicious informers to an extent which in Europe would not be credited; the interference and the inquisitorial examination of the assessor, even when his duty is conscientiously performed, is singularly galling and offensive to Native feeling; the disposition to make false returns or to conceal real sources of incomes is to the majority an irresistible temptation, and the honest tax-payer is placed at a greater disadvantage, as compared with his unscrupulous neighbours, even than in countries in a more advanced stage of civilisation."

The Maharaja of Jeypore, who is a Member of the Legislative Council, said that "in his opinion of all modes of direct taxation the Income tax was the most unsuited to this country, as it was most opposed to the feelings of the people." It is to be observed that His Highness, whose opinion on this question differed from that of the Government for the time being, is the ruler of a Native State, and therefore neither he nor his subjects were affected by the tax. His opinion was that of a friendly neighbour.

I have endeavoured to weigh impartially the opinions which have been expressed upon the subject of the Income tax, and I have no hesitation in expressing my opinion that the weight of authority is against the tax, and that if the question were to be decided upon that ground alone, it stands first for remission of all Imperial taxes.

I have heard it said that many of the objections to the Income tax are more sentimental than substantial, and that even if there is a considerable feeling among the people against the tax, it ought nevertheless, being theoretically a proper tax, to be imposed. My opinion, on the contrary, is that it is essential to the safe Government of India that taxes, if they cannot always be altogether in accordance with the feelings of the people, should not be altogether opposed to them; and in support of the view which I entertain as to the political danger of an unpopular tax, I may quote the opinion of Lord Canning upon the same subject as recently stated by Mr. Laing before the Committee of the House of Commons on Indian Finance. Mr. Laing, when asked to state generally the views of Lord Canning upon the subject of Indian taxation, replied:—

"I know that Lord Canning's view was very strongly against direct taxation for India, and that he only sanctioned the proposal for an Income tax very reluctantly from the extreme financial necessity of the time. I know that when I was able to show to him that we were in a position to repeal the Income tax upon the lower class of Incomes, which we did in 1862, and to abstain from imposing the License tax, he was perfectly delighted, and received the announcement with the greatest possible pleasure; one expression I recollect his using to me, which made a very great impression on my mind when he was referring to the evil of unpopular taxation in India; he said, 'Danger for danger; I would rather risk governing India with an army of only 40,000 Europeans than I would risk having to impose unpopular taxation.'"

I will now allude to the arguments which have been used in favour of the tax. It is contended that its value is enhanced by its unpopularity, because all those who pay it are enlisted on the side of economy by hope of the tax being reduced, or the fear of its being increased. The argument, for what it is worth, might logically be used to support a temporary Income tax, but fails altogether when the tax is proposed as a permanent part of the financial system.

It is also contended that if the Income tax be not re-imposed, a great financial reserve for time of war or other emergency will be abandoned; but it may be argued, on the other hand, and I think with greater truth, that a reserve is more complete and effective if the whole be kept in abeyance, than when a part of it is used to meet the ordinary expenses of the State. If it be intended to include under the term 'emergency' such temporary difficulties as have lately been met by an increase of the Income tax, the reply is that it is not good policy to have recourse to the Income tax upon such occasions, and the proof is to be found in the discontent which has lately been occasioned by the adoption of that course, and the concurrence that the Income tax should not in future be used to supplement ordinary deficiencies.

I attach little importance to the argument that the machinery for assessing the tax should be maintained. No new assessments have been made for the last two years, and in some parts of India, at any rate, fresh machinery would have to be created in order to carry a re-assessment into effect.

The only other argument in favour of the Income tax on its own merits that, so far as I am aware, has been used, is that it is the sole means by which the commercial class, and especially the wealthy Native traders, can be brought to contribute to the resources of the State.

The European commercial classes and Government servants pay something in the shape of Customs duties; but the Native trader almost entirely escapes Imperial taxation, and the justice of imposing some tax upon this class is not to be denied.

It is necessary, however, to consider how far the Income tax has really succeeded in effecting this object, and what consequences have been involved in the process.

The Income tax for 1872-73 is estimated to produce a gross return of £585,100, distributed as follows:—

	£
Land	160,674
Houses	15,211
Employment, private ...	34,876
Employment, Government ...	103,567
Commerce	237,750
Funds	23,796
Miscellaneous	9,226
Total ...	585,100

It appears, therefore, that Commerce, European and Native together, pays less than half of the whole proceeds of the tax, while Land pays two-thirds of the contribution paid by Commerce, and Government Servants pay nearly a fifth of the whole tax,—Land and Government Servants together paying more than Commerce.

Land has lately had, or will shortly have, to bear increased taxation in most parts of India from Local cesses imposed in addition to the Land assessment, and Sir William Muir and other high authorities have strongly represented the inexpediency of continuing to tax land both by the Income tax and by Local cesses.

I do not look with favour upon raising so large a proportion of the Income tax from Government servants. Those who enjoy high salaries are willing and ready to pay, but the main weight of the tax falls upon the many who are by no means well off, rather than upon the few who are rich. The total number of Government servants who pay Income tax is 37,266; out of this number, 30,436 pay upon salaries of less than £1,000 a year, and contribute more than half of the total amount levied, and of the latter number 12,662 pay upon salaries of less than £200 a year.

Moreover, the land-holder, the Government servant, and the holder of funds or shares pay Income tax in full, while it is universally admitted that the Native traders largely evade the tax. There is, therefore, a glaring inequality in the incidence of the tax upon the different classes who pay it. The same inequality exists between tax-payers of the same class in different districts. A remarkable instance of this will be found in the last Income tax report from the Punjab, in which it is remarked that a larger return was derived from the comparatively poor district of Gurdaspore than from the district of Umritsur, which contains the second town of the Province as regards population and wealth. These inequalities result from the great difficulties which attend the assessment of the Income tax in India. I fear that with all our endeavours to levy the tax fairly, the state of the case is much the same as it was represented to have been under the Act of 1860 by a Committee composed of officers representing the different Local Governments. They said:—

"Evasion is so entirely the rule that all forms and returns are declared to be perfectly useless, and surcharge, or, in other words, arbitrary assessment made almost at random, has been universally necessary to attain anything like a decent financial result."

It might perhaps be possible to organise an establishment such as that which is used to revise the land settlements, and so in time to improve the mode in which the Income tax is assessed: but the difficulty would even then be very great, and the expense of such an establishment would far exceed any reasonable proportion of the proceeds of the tax.

It seems, therefore, that however just it may be to levy the Income tax on the trading classes, the attempt to do so necessarily involves the levy of the tax on other interests some of which, at least, ought not to be subjected to additional taxation; and further, that great inequalities in the incidence of the tax, as well as some extortion in its collection, are unavoidable."

And Lord Northbrook was quite right. The repeal of the Income tax, the remission of the non-agricultural cess in Bombay, the abandonment of the house-tax in Madras, the disallowance of the Bengal Municipalities' Bill, and the reduction of the Pandari tax in the Central Provinces, had a most soothing effect upon the popular mind. Simultaneously with the reduction of taxation was effected reduction of expenditure by retrenchments and a proper regulation of public works expenditure, and thus was accomplished quietly but effectively the work, which the people had expected from the appointment of a Royal Commission of Enquiry. Lord Northbrook fulfilled his mission as the financial saviour of India in two short years.

The financial policy laid down by Lord Northbrook in 1873 has been since steadily and consistently carried out. The Southern Customs Line, which drew its long and obstructive length of 800 miles across Central India, has been abolished at a considerable sacrifice of the salt revenue. In the financial statement for 1875-76 it was observed: "The head of Customs includes £140,850 duty on sugar exported from North-Western India to Rajpootana and Central India. This is one of the least defensible of all our taxes; but there is hope that, with the customs barrier at which it is collected, it will ere long be swept away." And this is only a question of time. There has also been some remission of the Salt duty in Madras. With what care, judgment and economy the finances were administered during the last four years we will shew by giving a few more facts. The revenue exceeded the expenditure in the year 1871-72 by £3,124,177; in the year 1872-73 by £1,765,672; in the year 1873-74 by £2,071,937; and in 1874-75 it was estimated to exceed the expenditure by £1,889,000. In the four years, therefore, there appears upon the face of the account to have been a surplus of revenue over expenditure of no less than £8,850,786 or making some deductions Rs. 7,112,533. In several despatches which successive Secretaries of State have addressed to the Government of India on the subject of finance, a desire has been expressed that the Indian finances might show an annual surplus of more than £500,000. But the surplus in four years has amounted to £7,000,000, or more than three times the sum which the Home Government had desired. And this satisfactory result was obtained not only without recourse to additional taxes, but with considerable remission of taxation as shewn above. On the other hand expenditure has been effectually controlled. The expenditure of India consists of two classes; the first is beyond and the second within the control of Government; the first comprises the interest of the debt, and the charge for superannuation and retired allowances, and the second the cost of Civil Administration, Law and Justice, Public Works, the Army, and the Marine Service. We find that the average annual expenditure under the last head for the three years 1870-71 to 1872-73, was £29,748,527; and for the two years 1873-74 and 1874-75, £29,331,793. The average annual expenditure upon these services during the last two years is therefore less by two millions and a half than it was six years ago, and less by rather more than £400,000 than it was three years ago. Such was the substantial result of the enforcement of economy under Lord Northbrook's administration. The Government has however been active in prosecuting Public Works. In the four years of Lord Northbrook's rule the Government has spent on Public Works Extraordinary £11,401,351, the balances of the Guaranteed Railway Companies have been diminished by £1,212,466, a disbursement which is of the nature of a reduction of debt, and we have lent to Native States, Municipalities, &c. £1,570,231, which we shall eventually recover, and which in the meantime has been of great benefit to those whom we have assisted. These disbursements, amounting together to £12,613,817, have been met as follows:—By diminution of cash balances, £1,738,517; by surplus of revenue over expenditure, £805,860; by excess of receipts over disbursements on the sundry accounts which are embraced in our cash transactions, £2,103,007; and by net increase of debt, £9,536,664,—an increase which is considerably less than the sum spent upon Public Works Extraordinary. Add to this the expenditure on the Bengal Famine of 1873-74, amounting to £6,306,677. It needs be borne in mind that this large sum has been met without raising a single pice by loan or taxation. The crowning act of Lord Northbrook's financial administration has been revision of the Tariff. We have written so much of late on this subject that we will not trouble the reader with details. In this as in other matters Lord Northbrook took his stand upon the aphorism of Sir Charles Wood. "Whatever," said that venerable statesman, "is for the real interests of India, I will do, and do willingly, but no more." Lord Northbrook said, "his position was never challenged; and in all financial questions the true interest of the people of India is the only consideration which the Government of India has to regard." And the first measure which his Lordship took was the emancipation of the export trade. The export duties, he said in his Tariff speech, are altogether inconsistent with free trade. Accordingly grain, seeds, oils, spices, hides, and cotton manufactures were freed from export duty, and only three articles of export—rice, indigo, and shell-lac—were left untouched. Regarding the import duties his Lordship remarked: "India is a far poorer country than England, and therefore we cannot obtain a large Customs revenue upon a few articles, and are obliged to draw a larger number within our net. Moreover, India is a country which possesses, either in existence or in embryo, the means of supplying all the necessaries, and many of the luxuries of life. Indeed, with the exception of wines and some classes of spirits, there is hardly any article imported from abroad which could not be produced in India; and, in order to obtain any substantial revenue from duties on imports, we are forced to tax articles which may be, and many of which actually are, produced in India; and so far our import duties, although low in amount and imposed for revenue purposes only, may have had some protective effect." Again:

"India is a country in which there is but little choice of new sources of taxation: it would be difficult to replace a large amount of revenue excepting by an Excise duty on tobacco or by some kind of direct taxation. I am satisfied that such a change would not be desirable even in a financial point of view. The army of tax-gatherers, on low pay, which would be let loose over the country to collect a new Excise, would probably involve a larger charge to the Government than the cost of collecting the Customs duties; and what is of more importance, by the imposition of a new Excise duty or of direct taxation under the best arrangements that could be made to levy either, the people of India would, in my opinion, have to pay a larger sum than they would gain by the reduced cost of the articles which would be affected by the abolition of our Customs duties.

But this is not all. I have no hesitation in asserting that the political evil of giving up our Customs duties, or a large part of them, and of imposing fresh taxes in their place, would be great. Whatever may be the objections to Customs duties, they possess the advantages of being collected easily and paid without pressure. These advantages are of peculiar importance in India, where new taxes are particularly liable to occasion popular discontent. To substitute direct taxes or new Excise duties for the Customs duties which are now imposed upon foreign goods, seems to me to be a policy which would be contrary to the interests of the people of India, and which no statesman with a knowledge of India and a sense of responsibility could be found to propose.

Nobly said. Of course Manchester is malcontent, but the people of India have ample reasons to be grateful to the statesman, who has had the courage and conscience to lay down such fair and equitable principles without caring one iota for popularity with the most powerful section of the English public. The practical effect of the new Tariff has been this. Export duties have been abolished which last year produced a revenue of £173,000. Import duties have been reduced which last year produced a revenue of £173,000. Import duties on wines have been imposed which are estimated to produce a revenue of £100,000. The Tariff valuations have been revised at a net loss to the revenue of

£62,000. The whole net relief calculated upon the Customs receipts of last year will be £308,000. Notwithstanding this, the Customs revenue for the financial year 1875-76 is not expected to fall short of the estimate by more than £70,000. Such in brief has been the financial administration of Lord Northbrook.

A constant source of extravagance and waste has been the want of any strict method for the administration of public works. This subject received Lord Northbrook's attention in connection with the Behar Famine. His Lordship weighed the comparative merits of railways and irrigation works for the development of trade and industry and for the prevention of famines, and laid down these general principles:

"The term "irrigation works" is intended to include not only large and expensive schemes, but all wells, tanks or other works which are calculated to afford a supply of water in time of need.

Irrigation works alone can prevent the failure of the crops by securing the supply of water which is necessary to bring them to maturity.

The construction of railroads, or the improvement of other means of communication, will reduce the danger resulting from the local failure of crops by facilitating the import of supplies from without.

The advisability of making use of railways or irrigation works, or of both combined, for the protection of any district of country from the effect of a failure of crops, depends upon its condition and circumstances.

It is impossible for Government to provide by means of irrigation works carried out at the public expense, or even through the agency of Government officers at the expense of the persons interested, for the possible effects of failures of rain in every portion of Her Majesty's Indian territories. All that can be aimed at is to prevent the simultaneous failure of the crops over a large area of country by the protection of a portion of it so that the whole may not be subjected to the same calamity.

The particular districts to which the operations of Government may with the greatest advantage be directed seem to be those—

1st.—In which the people depend for food mainly upon supplies grown within the district.

2ndly.—Where the supplies are derived principally from one crop which is raised under the influence of the same rainfall.

3rdly.—Which have little or no external trade, and are the most removed from means of communication.

It seems necessary that a portion of such districts should be protected from drought by irrigation works, and that the whole should be brought into nearer communication with the main arteries of trade.

Districts which produce other articles than food in considerable quantities, and are in easy communication with other parts of India, can hardly suffer very severely from a failure of their own food crops, for it has been shown by the experience of the past year that there is no likelihood of any general dearth of food throughout the whole of India. The extension of railways has greatly facilitated the transport of food from one part of the country to another, prices are rapidly equalised, and the effects of a failure in the food supply of one part are spread over an extensive area of country."

By applying these general considerations to the Behar projects some millions of money have been saved.

We next turn to the foreign policy of Lord Northbrook. It was an exciting theme of controversy last year. With regard to Affghansthan his Lordship has walked in the footsteps of his predecessors Lords Lawrence and Mayo—his motto has been—wait and watch. His Lordship sent an Embassy to Yarkand for the purpose of opening commercial relations with it. There was a boundary dispute with the Court of Ava, but his Lordship firmly resisted the pressure of interested or aggressive Europeans, who wanted a war with Burma and its eventual annexation. His policy on this subject was much criticized by the Anglo-Indian Press, but the verdict of history we make no doubt will be in his favor. His relations with the Native Princes have been on the whole satisfactory. His Lordship visited several Native states, and personally encouraged the chiefs to persevere in their good works. The enthusiasm and cordiality with which they received his Lordship shewed the respect and good feeling they cherished for him. His Lordships' foreign policy will be best remembered for the action he took for the deposition of the Gaekwar of Baroda. That action marks an epoch in the history of British relation with the Native potentates of India. The means which his Lordship took for the accomplishment of his end have been the subject of much angry controversy, and we still say as we then said that his Lordship's policy was disfigured by some serious inconsistencies and blunders. All these inconsistencies and blunders arose from a want of decision of character he exhibited by subjecting the Gaekwar to a probation under the supervision of the very officer who was his accuser. Perhaps his Lorship was not so much to blame in this as he Bombay Government, for if it be a fact thta the Bombay Government had made a personal question of Col. Phayre's continuance in office, and that his Lordship consequently gave in, we cannot but regret that his Lordship did not act upon his own conviction, because the responsibility was his, or that he did not refer the matter to the Secretary of State as the ultimate authority. We are convinced that if Colonel Phayre had been removed in time the subsequent complications would not have arisen. At the beginning his Lordship shewed a perfect impartiality in dealing with Malhar Rao. He had ordered a Commission to investigate the charges against the Gaekwar, and although it was notorious that Malhar Rao was perfectly incapable of ruling a state and guilty of gross oppressions, still his Lordship thought proper to give him an opportunity to redeem the character of his administration. This was just and generous. And Mulhar Rao did take steps to reform his government, but Colonel Phayre was the stumbling-block in his way. His Highness again applied for the removal of the Resident, and the Viceroy at last acceded to his prayer, but it was too late. Before the last order had reached the Gaekwar the news flashed from the Resident of an attempt to poison him. This *contretemps* changed the whole aspect of things. Then ensued the second stage of the drama for the trial of the Gaekwar which ended in his deposition. For our part we still doubt whether there was a sufficiently strong *prima facie* case for putting the Gaekwar on trial. But having determined to have the trial, his Lordship adopted a constitutional course, quite novel but politically most important. Of course this constitutional mode was not in accord with the despotic ideas of Anglo-Indian politicians, but it was eminently worthy of the conscientious statesman, who originated it. He was, however, inconsistent in not following up the verdict of the peers of the prince, who tried him. Be that as it might, three things are clear, 1stly, that from the first Lord Northbrook wanted to deal fairly with the Gaekwar, 2ndly, that his primary object was the good of the people of Baroda, and 3rdly, that he has resolutely resisted the cry of annexation. Malhar Rao by his antecedents and acts as a ruler had forfeited the respect and sympathy of all right-thinking men. His subjects had been groaning under oppression, and the Bombay papers had teemed with tales of his misrule. Regarding the Native States under existing circumstances a serious responsibility rests upon the Paramount Power. If the subjects of a Native State are oppressed, they cannot right themselves by rebelling, for immediately the British bayonet will come to the rescue of their tyrant; they are therefore helpless, and unless the British Government as the Paramount Power affords them redress, no other earthly power can help them. The people of Baroda was in this position, and the action of Lord Northbrook was therefore perfectly justifiable. His end was decidedly righteous, though the means he took for the accomplishment of it were open to criticism. His final action has fully vindicated his policy. He has not annexed the State or established an English administration there. He has placed a Native statesman of acknowledged ability at the head of affairs to administer the State in trust for the young Gaekwar, who has been elected to succeed to the guddi.

The internal administration of the country next claims our attention. During the reign of Lords Lawrence and Mayo legislation had reached fever-heat. The public mind was kept up in a constant state of excitement by the perpetual grinding of the legislative mill. The country wanted rest, and Lord Northbrook gave it. His Lordship was ably seconded by the Law Member of his Council. This gentleman was not infected with the mania for legislative innovations, from which his two predecessors had suffered, we mean Sir Henry Maine and Mr. FitzJames Stephen. A man of calm judgment, great modesty, and enlightened and liberal views he has not shewn that inordinate craving for change, which led his two predecessors to over-load the statute-book. On the other hand he has quietly endeavoured to rectify some of the more mischievous innovations, though he could not obviously do much in that direction. The reader might remember the agitation made for the amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code. Lord Northbrook apparently sympathized with the petitioners and postponed the enforcement of the new Code for a year pending a reference to the Secretary of State. The Indian Minister was not pleased to disallow it, but the Viceroy caused a Bill to be passed for the amendment of some of the obnoxious provisions of the Code. There were further attempts made at codification and repeal of old Acts. There was, however, one Bill introduced in the Governor's General Council, the principle of which was not in accord with the general spirit of Lord Northbrook's administration —we allude to the Bombay Revenue Jurisdiction Bill. We are no less concerned than surprised that a statesman, who sought to improvise a Constitution for the Native Princes by appointing a judicial commission for the trial of the Gaekwar of Baroda, should have permitted the introduction of a measure, which would take away the jurisdiction of the judicial tribunals in the Western Presidency for the trial of Revenue cases, in which the Government would be interested, and thus give preference to discretion before law. We also regret that His Lordship should have allowed the fair fame of his administration to be tainted by the new Ordinance prohibiting the performance of obnoxious plays without recourse to the ordinary laws of the land. As we pointed out last week the ordinary laws are quite sufficient and strong in the interest of peace, order and morality, and the exercise of despotic power manifested in the Ordinance was quite uncalled-for. We should also be exceedingly sorry if it be true as stated that his Lordship has recommended the enactment of some mesure for the restriction of the liberty of the Native Press. We notice this subject separately in another column. We cannot however dismiss the question of legislation without expressing our gratitude to his Lordship for carrying out the intention of Parliament in the nomination of Native members to the Imperial Council. He has not been content with ornamental dummies.

Lord Northbrook has carried out faithfully the decentralization policy of his predecessor. Instead of following it to the letter he has acted up to its spirit, and has in several instances assisted the local Governments with additional grants. His Lordship has twice interfered with the land-settlement with a view to moderate the assessment, once in the Punjab and again in Bombay. He lately appointed a Commission to report on the grievances of the ryots in the Deccan. We are sorry that he has not time to enforce his views with regard to the settlement in Bombay. His predecessor before his death took special interest in the development of the resources of British Burma, and committed it to the care of one of the ablest and most energetic Indian administrators—we mean the Hon'ble Ashley Eden. Lord Northbrook continued that interest and greatly assisted in the furtherance of the work of the local administration. He created a new Chief Commissionership by detaching Assam from Bengal. The Government of India has no direct share in the management of education. It rests with the local Governments to carry out the educational policy laid down in the Education Despatch of 1854. But his two predecessers, Lords Lawrence and Mayo, had begun a system of interference, which threatened to imperil the cause of high education in Bengal, and this threat was about to fructify in the hands of Sir George Campbell. Driven to desperation the educated classes of Bengal appealed to the new Viceroy, and his Resolution on the subject had a most assuring effect. Sir George Campbell's destructive hand was arrested and the cause of liberal education in Bengal was ensured. In reply to the memorial of the British Indian Association the Governor General in Council declared:

"His Excellency in Council trusts that the memorialists will rest assured that there is no desire on the part of the Government to depreciate the importance, or to discourage the cultivation, of high English education in Bengal. His Excellency has observed with satisfaction the great progress that has been made of late years in the general knowledge of the English language, as well as the complete command of English which has been acquired by many members of the Calcutta University, whose literary works are deserving of

praise. The results are cordially and heartily recognised by His Excellency in Council : they prove that remarkable success has attended the measures which have been adopted during the last twenty years by the scholars and statesmen who have directed the course of education ; and they show that the future success of English education in Bengal is established beyond the risk of failure by the firm hold which it has acquired upon the people."

Since this Resolution of the Government of India, the cause of education in Bengal both liberal and primary has been in safe custody. His Lordship has also evinced a lively interest in the education of the Mahomedans and poor Europeans and Eurasians. In a Resolution on Mahomedan education his Lordship remarked :

"It is, however, in the higher schools, in the colleges, and in the universities, that the absence or backwardness of Mahomedans has been shown to exist remarkably. The reports all agree that our system has not attracted them to the higher ranges of our educational course, or to persevere up to the point at which studies impress real culture, and fit young men for success in the services and open professions. How far this state of things can be attributed to the want of a connected scheme of courses of instruction suitable for Mahomedans, leading up through the lower to the higher standards, and how far to the general disinclination of Mahomedans to exchange their earlier modes of study for others more consonant with modern habits of thought, is a question which need not here be closely examined. It may be conjectured that, at the present epoch, Mahomedans are discovering that the ancient paths are unprofitable to stand upon, while their traditions and natural predilections still hold them back from setting out energetically upon newly opened roads. For, while it is confessed that Mahomedans nowhere appear in satisfactory strength upon the lists of our higher schools, colleges, or universities, on the other hand those institutions which have purposely preserved the ancient exclusively Mahomedan type, and which have been restricted to instruction in the languages and sciences which belong peculiarly to Mahomedanism, have also been found to be falling gradually but steadily into neglect. We may perhaps assume, therefore, that the Mahomedans are not so much averse to the subjects which the English Government has decided to teach, as to the modes or machinery through which teaching is offered. And if it thus appear that to the traditions and reasonable hesitation which keep aloof our Mahomedan fellow-subjects are added certain obstacles which our system itself interposes,—either by using a language that is unfamiliar or machinery that is uncongenial,—it is plain that many of the drawbacks to the universality of our educational system are susceptible of removal."

Several measures were recommended to the local Governments for the promotion of education among the Mahomedans, and they are now in progress. His Lordship also took a lively interest in the Calcutta University, and it was under his direction that the school-books were revised. Patronage in the hands of the Government of India is limited, but Lord Northbrook has done much in advancing natives in the non-regulation provinces. The higher posts of the subordinate executive service of these provinces were hitherto filled with Europeans or Eurasians, but under a recent Resolution of the Government of India those appointments are now reserved for natives. His Lordship has lately appointed a native gentleman to be the Director of Public Instruction in Berar. He has appointed experimentally one or two Native gentlemen as attachés to the diplomatic service. If the experiment should succeed a great step would be gained. In the general dispensation of patronage His Lordship has exercised his power conscientiously. One thing is clear—his Lordship has not been swayed by any clique or party, though we must confess that the Bengal Civilians have been left out in the cold.

The Famine forms a chapter by itself. If peace hath its victories no less renowned than war, the moral victory which the British Government achieved by rescuing millions of people from the jaws of death in the pinching scarcity of 1873-74 will ever shine conspicuously in the page of history. The calamity came upon the country with a suddenness and intensity which took every body by surprise. The alarum-bell was sounded by Sir George Campbell and Lord Northbrook came down from his mountain abode in breathless haste. For nearly a year the one thought which was uppermost in his mind was the famine, the one object which engrossed his attention was the safety of the unfortunate people, who were overtaken by the disaster, the one consideration which in his estimation superseded all others was the protection of the lives of those hapless beings who had neither food to eat nor water to drink. The history of the Bengal Famine of 1874, if we may be permitted to quote our own words, will ever remain memorable in the annals of British India—memorable for the extensive area which it threatened to embrace, for the humane and generous policy adopted by Government to meet it, for the vastness of preparations made in pursuance of that policy, for the promptitude, energy, and self-sacrifice, with which all officers of Government, from the highest to the lowest, laboured in this mission of humanity, and for the warm sympathy and active benevolence which it evoked both in England and in India, in the heart of our gracious Sovereign, and in those of her numerous subjects of all nationalities and creeds. This was the first time in the history of British rule in the East that the State recognized its duty to maintain its suffering subjects at a time of general scarcity, and it performed that duty with a consideration, devotedness, and liberality, which have not only filled the hearts of the Indian subjects of the Queen with the most lively feeling of gratitude but the whole civilized world with the highest admiration. Censorious critics may now quarrel about details and point to extravagance here or there. But the question of the hour was one of life and death for many millions, and it mattered little whether there was some extra expenditure, which might possibly have been saved if the Government could then work with its present lights. What Lord Northbrook's Government achieved will always redound to the credit of the British nation.

Bengal has special reasons to be grateful to Lord Northbrook. It had recently come under the rule of a fire-brand, who was by his impulsiveness and eccentricities putting the whole country into ignition. Now this corner and now that were on fire—aye, the whole province was in conflagration. Were it not for the timely aid of Lord Northbrook Bengal we fear would have been burnt to ashes. Slowly but surely he stayed the ruthless hand of the Bengal Governor. Now the education question, now the land question, now the municipal question, each in its turn was satisfactorily solved by the Viceroy. Much as the people of Bengal feel grateful to Lord Northbrook for his general policy, they owe to his Lordship a debt immense of endless gratitude for rescuing them from the Reign of Terror, which prevailed here since the advent of the fiery Scotchman "from his home in the north."

The above is a brief resume of the prominent events of Lord Northbrook's administration. It has not been brilliant in the sense the word is usually understood. He made no war, annexed no territory, broke no pledge, committed no plunder, and resorted to no sensational trick, and could not therefore be considered a brilliant ruler. He has done his duty—a praise in these days of hollow-heartedness and dramatic effect the highest that could be accorded to a man. If every man would do his duty honestly, faithfully, and courageously, the world would assume a different aspect. What Lord Northbrook promised at the outset he has fulfilled within the last four years. He had said that "England desired no territorial aggrandizement," and he has not added one acre to the area of the Indian empire—that "equal justice shall be dealt to all," and he has never been seen to go astray wifully or knowingly from the path of rectitude or even-handed justice —that "any attempt at disorder will be promptly repressed" and fortunately no occasion arose for the performance of this part of his programme—that "the feelings and interests of all classes and creeds shall be duly considered," and the rapid survey of the leading features of his administration we have given above shews that he has carried out his text to the letter. Nothing could be more honorable to him than the high conscientiousness with which he has discharged his solemn and sacred trust. That he has committed blunders and some of them sad blunders his Lordship we believe will not himself deny, but what man is there who is not liable to err? But apart from the substantial benefits which his Lordship has conferred by his financial reforms, by reduction of taxation, by an intelligent and vigorous supervision of public works, by avoiding violent legislation, by his policy of conservation and preservation, the high moral character of his rule will long remain stamped upon the memory of India. He made no invidious distinctions of race, country or color ; he stretched forth his hand to the black man and the white with equal freedom and cheerfulness ; he openly avowed his sympathy with the children of the soil, and by doing so raised their social and political status ; himself devoid of pride he disarmed pride in his subordinates in their bearing towards the natives, and though apparently cold and reserved he has a warm heart which glows within. He rewarded merit and honored those to whom honor was due. How strongly attached he has been to the true interests of the people of India is seen from the bold front he has presented to Manchester. For that act alone, if for nothing else, his name ought to remain enshrined in the hearts of the people of India. His departure at this time is a national calamity. May he live long and may he continue to further the interests of the myriads of India, in whatever sphere of life he may be placed, is our humble and earnest prayer!

GAGGING THE PRESS.

SIMULTANEOUSLY with the appearance of the new Ordinance for the suppression of objectionable plays the news has come from England that the Government contemplates to gag the Press. The London Correspondent of the *Bombay Gazette*, who communicates this intelligence, says : "I have some reason for saying that the Government contemplate shortly issuing an important regulation affecting the Indian newspapers. The language of several of the native journals has of late attracted considerable attention here, much more I am sure than it ought to have done. But Indian officialism, like officialism under the French Empire, is disposed to resent criticism, and there is just a fear that in aiming at the Native Press the new regulations may be covertly directed at outspoken journals like your own." The writer adds; "To make a regulation, as has been suggested which shall have the effect of absolutely placing the official class above all criticism, sounds so utterly unreasonable that one can hardly credit it, even under the rule of Lord Northbrook and his private Secretary—especially the secretary. Proposals of such a nature have however been made to the India Office, and there is reason for expecting that some at least will be carried into effect. For the credit of the Government I hope they will not dare to curb the loyal and reasonable criticism of the *English press in India.*" *We can hardly believe this statement, and yet in this strange Indian world nothing is strange. But we do hope* that for the sake of the credit of the Government this news is incorrect, and if it is so the sooner the Government contradicts it the better. It is not sufficient to give the contradiction through the *Pioneer*, which not unfrequently leads only to mislead. For our part we cannot believe that Lord Northbrook has recommended this measure. It would be so unstatesmanlike, so un-English, and so unlike himself that nothing short of ocular demonstration would persuade us to believe it. It is true that the Press both English and Native has sharply criticized his Lordship's Baroda policy, and that since then it has been in a fit of distemper with him, but no sound or conscientious statesman should lose the balance of his mind from what a few clamourous journalists might say. His Lordship may justly get angry with the Native Press because he has devoted his talents, energy, and influence solely to the good of the people, and yet there are ungrateful men who do not appreciate his single-minded zeal, his broad and liberal views, and generous sympathies. We cannot too strongly condemn the caviling and censorious spirit in which some of our countrymen write, but they are not more violent than some of the Anglo-Indian prints, or for the matter of that some of the English journals, and if the Native Press is to be gagged, then to be consistent the English Press both here and in the United Kingdom writing on Indian matters should also be gagged. The greatest privilege which we as subjects of the British Crown enjoy is the freedom of thought and speech, and if that privilege were taken away, what distinction would there be between the British and the Mahomedan Government? This freedom is the legitimate outcome of the liberal policy of the British Government. If it had not educated the people of this country, if it had not taught them to discriminate between good and evil, right and wrong, if it had not encouraged them to express their opinions, sentiments, and feelings freely, frankly, and fully, there would not

have been so much criticism, so much discussion, so much agitation. It is the British Government, which professes to treat its Indian subjects as men and not as machines, as beings of flesh and blood, and not as waxen dolls, as free agents and not as brute beasts, and will it be consistent with its enlightened and liberal policy to make the retrograde step as rumoured? No! no! we can't believe it. It should then shut up its schools, burn all English books, which are in this country, stop the importation of all English newspapers, pamphlets and books, and interdict all intercourse between Natives and Europeans, for every Englishman is a teacher in India. Aye, it should not only do all this, but make the educated natives unlearn what they have already learnt. In short it should bring back the primeval darkness. But is all this possible? Can the British Government change its character, resign its noble mission, and retreat into the shell of oriental despotism? We repeat we cannot believe the rumour.

But why should the press be gagged? It was one thing when Lord Canning put the fetters upon it. Then the fate of the empire trembled in the balance—then there was a critical emergency. As Sir John Kaye, in his third volume of the Sepoy War, in commenting upon Lord Canning's Press Act, says: "That it is the duty of a Government, in the general interests of the community at periods of great popular excitement to obtain the sanction of the Legislature for the exercise of exceptional powers, has never been questioned. The Liberty of the Subject and the Liberty of the Press are blessings to which every Englishman holds fast as to an inalienable birthright. But there are times and seasons when the most constitutional of Governments impose restrictions on the former by suspending the Habeas Corpus Act, and do so without reproach when the public safety seems to demand a temporary suspension of the ordinary laws of the land. It is necessary to the justification of such a measure only that the crisis should be one of extreme urgency, and that the violence of persons should be sufficient to demand such violent interference with their liberties. And the same with respect to liberty of speech." But this is the piping time of peace; the people as a body are loyal to the backbone and obedient to the law; there is no social or political excitement, and is this the time to fetter the liberty of the subject, the liberty of speech and writing? We go the whole length with those, who condemn the silly mutterings or the violent diatribes of some of the vernacular papers; all right-minded persons would rejoice if the impudent authors of these outrageous productions were punished, but why level the gun of a Press Restriction Act at these gnats of the vernacular press? If they are seditious, they can be punished under the Seditious Words Act; if they are libellous they can be punished under the defamation sections of the Penal Code; if they are obscene, they can be punished under the obscenity clauses of the same Code. But why suspend the ordinary law of the land? Why put the whole population legally and morally in fetters? At the worst these vernacular papers address a very limited circle of readers, men the least prone to political mischief of any kind. The bulk of the vernacular press is well conducted, and to this fact Governors like Sir Bartle Frere, Sir George Campbell, Sir William Muir and Sir Richard Temple have borne willing and honorable testimony. The merits and shortcomings of the vernacular press of Bengal have been very fairly balanced by Sir Richard Temple in his last Administration Report. He says:

"Provided that we were sure that the vernacular press really expresses public opinion, we should thereby learn that which, as foreign rulers, we are so much concerned to know, and which is yet so hard to be known, namely, the feelings and wishes of the natives. If the line followed by the vernacular press were generally that of praise of British persons and things, there might be suspicion of flattery; but as the line actually taken is often much the reverse, we may be confident that the comments are perfectly free and without reserve. I have accordingly paid due attention to this subject, and my general conclusion is decidedly favourable in respect to the loyalty and good-will of the Bengali press towards the British crown and nation, and towards British rule in the main. Occasionally, political observations are made of an evil tendency, and these whenever they occur must be condemned. But besides these, there is very much matter of a highly controversial character. Blame is constantly attributed to the British Government and administration; impracticable suggestions are frequently made; a disposition to find fault with everything that is done, or omitted to be done, and to be pleased with nothing, is sometimes manifested; an increasing jealousy is evinced regarding the bearing and demeanour of British people towards the natives; there is a tendency to form inflated notions and aspirations out of visionary ideas, without due regard to the sobering influences of deep knowledge and practical thought. All this need not, in my opinion, excite surprise; it may sometimes indeed have some foundation in justice; and though it may be often mistaken, still it is very different from any spirit of general disloyalty. On the other hand, there frequently occur passages of signal loyalty the sincerity of which may claim acceptance, in the face of the adverse criticism upon other matters with which this press abounds. It frequently happens that in fundamental matters, relating to the attachment of the thinking section of the people to British rule; the acknowledgment of the superior advantages of British rule on the whole as compared with any other; the public confidence in the good intentions of the British crown, Government and nation towards the natives; the gratitude of the natives for external security, religious freedom, material prosperity, and English education;—the case on behalf of the British is put by the Bengalee press with a warmth and an impressiveness hardly ever surpassed, and seldom equalled, by zealous advocates among ourselves.

Sir Richard Temple has summed up in a judicial spirit, and can it with any shew of reason or justice be contended in the face of this frank testimony from the responsible ruler of Bengal that the Bengali press deserves to be gagged? The greatest bulwark of a free Government is a free press; the history of England teaches that grand moral and political lesson, and since the emancipation of the press in India only once did an occasion arise when it was considered necessary to put restrictions upon the press. Then we felt it our duty to support the Government. Sir John Kaye in a foot-note in his last volume of the Sepoy War referred to above says:

"A letter before me, within a week after the Act was passed (by a high civil officer, one not likely to deviate from the truth), says. "I don't know what you will think of the Press Act, but no one ought to object to it who has not given a week to the study of the Indian newspapers. Sir Henry Lawrence tells us that the English Press has done us more harm in the Native mind than the Native Press, and that no paper has done us more harm than the *Friend of India*, which preaches the duty of spoliation in so many words, and almost in terms recommends forcible conversion, or the next thing to it. . . . The sensible part of the European Public approves of the Act. The good Native Press openly approves of it." The remarks of Sir Henry Lawrence, as contained in a letter to Lord Canning, were these. "Whatever may be the danger from the Native Press, I look on it that the papers published in our language are much the most dangerous. Disaffected Native editors rarely translate as they do, with or without notes, or words of admiration or exhortations, editorials from the *Friend of India* (on the duty of annexing every Native State, on the imbecility, if not wickedness, of allowing a single Jagheer, and of preaching the Gospel, even by commanding officers,) to raise alarm and hatred in the minds of all religionists, and all connected with Native principalities or Jagheers. And among the above will be found a large majority of the dangerous classes."

God forbid! that such an emergency should again rise, but if it should occur the Government would find the loyal Native Press on its side then as before. But to talk of gagging the press simply because it now and then says hard words of individual officers is an abuse of the reasoning faculty of man.

THE UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION.

THE last Convocation of the Calcutta University was invested with a peculiar interest. For the first time the University moved to do honor to two most distinguished Indian scholars Babu Rajendralala Mitra and the Rev. K. M. Banerjea. It was Bishop Cotton, who first suggested the bestowal of honorary degrees upon eminent scholars, but that suggestion did not fructify until the advent of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. When the honor was conferred upon the Prince the public were somewhat taken by surprise that the University authorities did not think fit to bestow it upon any children of the soil. It is said that the Prince had himself suggested the name of Dr. Monier Williams, and the public voice claimed the honor for Babu Rajendralala Mitra and the Rev. K. M. Banerjea. Lord Northbrook as Chancellor of the University has gracefully rectified this omission. At the annual Convocation of the University held on Saturday last His Lordship as Chancellor of the University invested Dr. Monier Williams (who was however not present) the Rev. K. M. Banerjea and Babu Rajendralala Mitra with the title of Doctor of Laws. The audience were disappointed that the Chancellor did not deliver any address, but Mr. Hobhouse, the Vice-Chancellor, performed this part with much grace and great effect. He made a chaste, sweet and stately speech. Alluding to Dr. Rajendralala Mitra he said that he had written books and papers both voluminous and valuable elucidating many important points connected with his country's history and throwing a flood of light on oriental literature. He regretted that he had not the knowledge to understand his researches and expositions, but he had the satisfaction of stating that the scholars of Europe entertained the highest opinion of his literary labors and antiquarian investigations. He read the well known opinion of Professor Max-Muller contained in the first volume of his "Chips from a German Workshop," which we give below:

"He is a pundit by profession, but he is at the same time a scholar and critic in our sense of the word. He has edited Sanskrit texts after a careful collection of Mss. and in his various contributions to the 'Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal;' he has proved himself completely above the prejudices of his class, freed from the erroneous views on the history and literature of India in which every Brahman is brought up, and thoroughly imbued with those principles of criticism which men like Colebrooke, Lassen, and Burnouf have followed in their researches into the literary treasures of his country. His English is remarkably clear and simple, his arguments would do credit to any Sanskrit scholar in England."

Mr. Hobhouse spoke in similar terms of Dr. Banerjea, and quoted the opinion of Dr. Hall regarding his chief work, the Dialogues.

Our countrymen feel honored in the honor done to these two distinguished representatives of Indian scholarship. They have devoted their whole lives to the pursuit of literature and science, and the services they have rendered to the cause of oriental literature, particularly those which Dr. Rajendralala Mitra has rendered, are incalculable. Dr. Banerjea is a connecting link between the old and new systems of public education. He was one of the first scholars of the late Hindu College in his day, and he is also a Fellow of the Calcutta University. He has vast erudition; possesses a good acquaintance with the classical languages of the West; is a worthy Sanskrit scholar, and a thorough master of the English language. Although his literary labors may not be so enduring and may not have attracted such wide renown among the scholars of Europe as those of his companion in letters and honor, still we feel proud of the triumphs he has achieved. Verging on seventy he is still devoted to letters and full of activity. He is an honorable and honored representative of the first Government College in Bengal. Dr. Rajendralala Mitra is not indebted to any Government College for his education. He laid the foundation of his education in a private and obscure seminary. He is entirely self-taught, and no modern Indian has worked so hard or utilized his learning to such good purpose as he has. He has published altogether forty-eight volumes in the English, Bengali, Sanskrit, Persian and Hindi languages. His essays and papers on antiquarian and literary subjects to the Journal and the Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Calcutta, the Transactions of the Anthropological Society of London, the *Calcutta Review*, and other periodicals number upwards of a hundred; and by these he has contributed largely to throw new light on the ancient history of India. He was the first to decipher the Bactro-Pali inscription of a Yusufzai vase, a record which had before baffled such scholars as Prinsep, Wilson and others; and it called forth the highest encomiums from Professor Dawson in the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society. His identification of the *Kishya* with the *Nilgai* was a discovery, which Professor Kuhn praised much in his paper on the subject in the German Oriental Society's Journal. His essay on the Yavanas opened out quite a new field of research. He was the first to solve the history of the Sena kajas of Bengal, and his conclusions have since been adopted by all subsequent writers. His translations of ancient Sanskrit inscriptions have commanded the respect of all European orientalists. He was the first to discover the peculiarities of the Gatha dialect, and nearly the whole of his paper on that subject was reprinted by Dr. Muir in the 2nd volume of his "Sanskrit Texts." Adverting to it Professor Max Muller, in the 1st volume of his "Chips from a German Workshop" says: "Other Sanskrit scholars have proposed other solutions of this strange mixture of correct prose and incorrect poetry in the Buddhist literature;

but none of them was satisfactory. The problem seems to have been solved at last by a Native scholar Babu Rajendralala, a curious instance of the reaction of European antiquarian research on the native mind of India." Again: "Now this, from the pen of a Native scholar, is truly remarkable. The spirit of Niebuhr seems to have reached the shores of India, and this ballad theory comes out more successfully in the History of Buddha than in the history of Romulus. The absence of anything like cant in the mouth of a Brahman speaking of Buddhism, the *bete noire* of all orthodox Brahmans, is highly satisfactory, and our Sanskrit scholars in Europe will have to pull hard if, with such men as Babu Rajendralala in the field, they are not to be distanced in the race of scholarship."

Dr. Rajendralala Mitra is in familiar correspondence with most of the leading European orientalists, all of whom entertain great regard for him. Professor Garcin de Tassy, in his annual addresses invariably describes him as the "Savant Indien." Professor Max Muller, in his inaugural address to the Congress of Orientalists in London, said: "The indefatigable Rajendralala Mitra is rendering most excellent service in the publications of the Asiatic Society at Calcutta, and he discusses the theories of European Orientalists with all the ease and grace of an English reviewer," Professor Foncaux of Paris has also written in praise of the Babu's edition of the Lalita Vistara. Although some of the published opinions of Dr. Rajendralala are opposed to those of Professor Weber of Berlin, that profound Sanskritist in his reviews of the Babu's works has always borne favourable testimony to his scholarship. The best proof, however, of the respect in which he is held by European Orientalists is afforded by the honors which have been conferred upon him by the different literary and scientific societies of Europe and America. He is an honorary member of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain, Fellow of the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries, Copenhagen, Honorary Member of the Imperial Academy of Science, Vienna, and corresponding member of the German Oriental Society, of the American Oriental Society, of the Royal Academy of Science, Hungary, and of the Anthropological Society of London. Is there a land, which would not be proud of such a son? Dr. Rajendralala's peculiar merit is that he is as manly and independent in his writings as he is in public life. It is highly gratifying to us that the Government has, though tardily, acknowledged his services to the cause of literature and science. May he live long and benefit his country by his devotion to letters and to her dearest interests!

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

THIS DAY His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales leaves India from Bombay for his island home. For four months H. R. H. has sojourned in different parts of the country, visiting chiefly the cities and towns, the great railway stations and the seats of Native Chiefs. Although wherever he has gone he has been feted and feasted it has not been a round of pleasure all through. He has performed State ceremonies in a semi-official form representing the Queen before the native potentates and British subjects assembled to do him honor. It is impossible to say what impressions H. R. H carries home, but we would entreat him to remember one thing, namely, that what he has seen is not the stern reality that exists. Without meaning offence to any body we must candidly confess that the empire was white-washed to please his eyes, and if he has not had time to look beneath the surface, he will not be doing justice to himself or to the millions of this country, by presenting the picture he has seen as a reality. The moral value of the royal visit does not however lie in what the Prince has seen as the outward varnish but in the conclusions which must have been suggested to his shrewd mind in his intercourse with people of various races and nationalities, guarded and limited though that intercourse has been. In that respect H. R. H, will be a guide and authority to the upper ten thousand of England, who will doubtless come to him to gratify their curiosity about India, and in so far his august influence may be a source of great benefit to India. With humility and loyal devotion we wish him God speed!

A FRIEND thus writes to us from Allahabad dated the 3rd instant.

"The shoe question is becoming every day more and more disagreeable and in this part of the country it has been the cause of many heartburnings. However what I will relate here is an instance only of the many forms which this shoe question assumes. A mookhtear by name Mohesh Persaud went into the court of an Assistant Magistrate with his shoes (native) on, the officer made the mukhtear take off his shoes and then made him stand in Court for ten minutes with his shoes in his hands and another twenty minutes with the shoes on his head. If you publish this in your paper you will highly oblige the native Bar. I saw the mookhtear this afternoon and heard the account from his own lips."

There is no law or rule which requires that persons appearing in a court of justice should not wear native shoes. We are surprised that the mooktear was punished for entering the court with his shoes on in such a barbarous manner as is reported by our correspondent. This is the way our officers shew their sympathy with the people. Of course our Government cannot control the whims of all manner of men shoved into the services but it is in its power to punish them whenever, they go astray.

WE HAVE much pleasure in giving a prominent insertion to the following despatch from the Secretary of State, which the Government has been pleased to place at our disposal, regarding Babu Rajendralala Mitra's "Antiquities of Orissa":

India Office, London, 20th January 1876.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HON'BLE THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

MY LORD,—1. On the receipt of your Secretary's letter dated the 14th of September, No. 23 (Public) the 22 copies of the 1st volume of Babu Rajendralala Mitra's Antiquities of Orissa were distributed as requested

2. I have much satisfaction in transmitting a copy of a note received from Professor Max Muller, for communication to Babu Rajendralala Mitra, as an indication of the estimation in which his services to oriental literature are held by one of the most accomplished scholars of Europe. The fact that a volume in all respects so creditable alike in its matter, and the excellence of the printing, illustrations, and binding, has brought out at Calcutta is of special interest.

3. It would be a cause of sincere congratulation, if others among Her Majesty's Indian subjects more frequently applied their talents, as Babu Rajendralala has done, to the elucidation of the history of their country, or otherwise to illustrate the numerous branches of knowledge which are thrown open to them by the high standard of education which is now attained by many of them.— I have &c.

(Sd.) SALISBURY.—

Professor Max Muller presents his compliments to Sir Louis Mallet and begs to express to him his sincere thanks for the valuable present just received from the Indian Government Rajendralala Mitra's work on the Antiquities of Orissa would do credit to any European Scholar, and as coming from a native archæologist, it is a most hopeful sign of a revival among the Hindus of real learning and of an intelligent appreciation of the ancient history of their country.—

December 6th 1875.

Such a compliment coming from Her Majesty's Secretary of State to our distinguished countryman is an honor done to the nation.

WHO IS responsible for the report in the morning papers of Babu Kalimohun Das's speech before the Select Committee of the Bengal Council on the Calcutta Municipal Bill? Is it a faithful report? Babu Kalimohun Das charged far more strongly against the controlling sections than even the Counsel for the British Indian Association or the Calcutta Justices, but where is the spirit, the warmth, or the fire which he shewed before the Select Committee? Did he not say that if those sections should pass as they stood no honorable or independent man would take office under the new constitution? Before the Select Committee he roared like a lion, but in the report he has been made to cry as soft as a sucking dove. Whence this inconsistency? It would be amusing if the newspaper report were compared with the official notes. We cannot but say that the reporters have not done their duty in reporting this particular speech.

THE PROSECUTION of the actors of the Great National Theatre Company on a charge of performing an obscene play has produced considerable sensation in the town, and promises to be interesting. Mr. Allen, counsel for some of the defendants, drew the attention of the Magistrate to the official analysis of the play published in the *Calcutta Gazette* and argued:

"That inasmuch as the play is, in that analysis, said to inculcate moral lessons, his clients, in putting it on the stage, did not think that they were acting wrongly, especially because the writer of the analysis, which was published under the authority of Government, did not say, though he must have carefully read the book, that there was anything improper or obscene in it. The learned counsel then urged that it was clearly in evidence that the words themselves were not obscene, though the prosecution endeavoured to shew that some of the passages were so. In reference to this he urged that the play should be judged as a whole, and that a passage or so here and there should not be selected to condemn the whole book, for if that were made the criterion of judging of the morality or otherwise of dramatic works, then the best of our plays would come under the same category, inasmuch as even in Shakespere and other eminent authors worse passages could be found. He submitted that, in Calcutta, a play like the present one should not be scrutinised more closely than those performed in London and other places which were cities of the highest civilization, and in which far worse plays (which he here mentioned) were put on the stage. The learned Counsel then dwelt on the definition of the word obscene, observing that it was a very elastic one, and that what was obscene to a quaker would not be obscene to a man of the world. In conclusion the learned counsel asked the Court to put a fair construction on the object of the play. The question was—was the play put on the stage to inculcate immorality? There could be no doubt whatever that the play inculcated several moral lessons, and if in doing so, one or two improper passages occurred here and there, that was no reason why the work should be condemned, and the defendants punished."

The Counsel for other defendants also argued in the same strain. Some experts were examined; we give their evidence below:

"John Charles Owen—I am Senior Interpreter of the High Court. I see this book—Surendro Binodini. I have read the book. I find it resembles a novel called "Twenty Straws" published in "Bow Bells." It is a play. It is not, in my opinion, an obscene play for the Bengalee stage. I am acquainted with Bengalee plays, but not deeply read in them. There are others more indecent. Bedya Sundari is more indecent. The object of the scene is to excite virtuous indignation towards the magistrate who is depicted as a villain.

Baboo Shama Churn Sircar—I am skilled in Bengalee literature, and I am a Bengalee author. I have not read this play. (Reads a passage from page 44). I don't see anything obscene in the words. The best poem in the Bengalee language is the most immoral. It is worse than this. (Reads a page from another page.) There is a passage in this page which I think is immoral, but not very indecent from a Bengalee point of view. The words are not indecent. There are worse plays than this by many degrees; the magistrate's conduct is reprehended. Dramatically speaking the words are not obscene.

Debender Chunder Bose, Opendro Nauth Mozoomdar, Jogesh Chunder Roy, and Mohesh Chunder Niyarutna, the latter of whom is a professor of the Sanscrit College, were also cited for the defence. They characterised the play as decent."

In spite of the evidence of these experts the Magistrate was of opinion that the play was obscene, convicted the Director and Manager, and sentenced them each to one month's simple imprisonment. The prisoners have moved the High Court and Mr. Justice Phear has ordered the transfer of the case from the Magistrate's court. The case will be heard by him on Thursday next. We reserve comments till the case is finally decided. We are, however, sorry to notice that there seems to be a prejudice amongst some of our Anglo-Indian contemporaries against the actors on the score of their performance of the Gajadananda and Hanumancharita farces. We have been the first to condemn these farces, and we deeply regret that the Theatre Company should have brought a stain upon the national character by bringing such low and despicable pieces upon the stage. But we hope no feeling connected with them will be allowed to influence the administration of unalloyed justice to the parties in connection with a different matter. If the play impeached be obscene, by all means punish the actors, but in the absence of a jury surely the opinion of experts ought not to be wholly set aside.

Just as were going to press we received the following opinion upon the play recorded by Dr. Banerjea:

"I have been asked by Baboo Upendra Nath Das to give an opinion on the moral tendency of the dramatic pamphlet, Surendra Binodini. At his request I have read the book. It is a work which indicates a good deal of genius in the author, and judging of it only as a book without having seen its representation on the stage, I am bound to say, I have not detected any passage either obscene in itself or likely to suggest obscene ideas to the reader's mind. It is not a book that I could recommend for the perusal of boys or girls, but that is all I can say against it from a moral point of view. And I could say as much against some of the novels of Sir Walter Scott himself. The scene in the Sarendra Binodini between the magistrate and the maid, Birajmohini, appears to be an imitation of the scene between the Knight Templar and the Jewish Maid in Ivanhoe—only the Bengalee author makes the maid actually jump down, and then brought up stairs again bleeding from the wounds she received by the fall.

I cannot voluntarily utter the above opinion without adding at the same time that the book is objectionable on another and, perhaps, a graver ground. It has a tendency to create disaffection against the constitutional administration of justice in the Mufussil. (Sd.) K. M. BANERJEA.

Ballygunge, the 11th March, 1876."

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	Rs.	As.	P
Patrick Smith Esq., Katlee	13	4	0
Setaram Nana Shaheb Esq., Goursarai, Jhansi	14	6	0
His Highness the Maharaja of Benares	13	4	0
His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala	13	4	0
The Maharanee of Dinagepore	13	4	0
Moulvi Lutfut Huq, Purneah	5	0	0
Belgaum Native General Library	13	4	0
Secy. City Library, Bareilly	1	13	0
Babu Bamon Chunder Bhottacharjea, Barrackpore	10	0	0
" Shib Chunder Chatterjea, Hooghly	3	0	0
" Dwarka Nath Das, Pakour	6	10	0
" Shama Churn Mookerjea, Lucknow	6	10	0
" Gour Krishna Sircar, Peatiparah	5	0	0
" Ramgopal Bose, Ajmere	13	4	0
" Krishna Soonder Sen, Mymensingh	5	4	0
" Kader Nath Chatterjea, Hooghly	13	4	0
" Taruck Nath Ghose, Bhagulpore	6	10	0
" Bykunt Nath Dey, Balasore	13	4	0
" Jadoo Nath Ghose, Lahore	13	4	0
" Nepal Chunder Bose, Bankipore	7	0	0
" Khetter Mohun Bose, Pooree	10	0	0
" Purmeshur Doyal, Arrah	13	4	0
" Preo Nath Chatterjea, Revilgunge	13	4	0
" Hurbuns Lal, Arrah	10	0	0
" Dumboroo Dhur, Burkegti Gya	10	0	0
" Mothura Nath Sen, Rajmahal	6	8	0
" Keshen Lal Bagchi, Dhubri	13	4	0
" Kally Coomar Coondoo, Moorshedabad	2	0	0
" Issan Chunder Mookerjea, Mednapore	13	4	0
" Ashootosh Ghose, Allahabad	7	0	0
" Hari Mohun Sircar, Surat	5	12	0
" Gungadi Nath Mookerjea, Dacca	10	0	0
" Neemyehunder Neugy, Cuttuck	10	0	0

Government Notifications.

Calcutta Gazette.—*March* 8, 1876.

GENERAL.—*The 1st March* 1876.—Mr. H. C. Richardson, Judge of Nuddea, is allowed subsidiary leave for five days from the 11th February 1876, to enable him to rejoin his appointment on his return from furlough.

Lieutenant A. E. Gordon having been appointed temporarily on special duty from the 23rd December 1875, the unexpired portion of the privilege leave granted to him under orders of the 21st idem, is cancelled from that date.

Mr. J. F. Blumhardt Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is allowed by the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State for India, an extension of leave for three months on medical certificate.

The 2nd March 1876.—Mr. Constantine Brownfield, Revenue Surveyor, Khoordah Survey, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act V (B.C.) of 1875.

Mr. F. E. Pargiter, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Chittagong, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X (B.C.) of 1871.

Baboo Hori Chaitanya Ghose, Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of Chittagong, is appointed to be manager of the Satkhira estate under the Court of Wards.

Baboo Nobin Chandra Sein, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Chittagong, is appointed temporarily to be Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of the Chittagong Division.

Mr. John Revans Hallett, who was, under orders of the 25th February 1876, appointed to act as Judge of the Courts of Small Causes at Bhagulpore and Moughyr, will act in the First Grade of Small Cause Court Judges and Subordinate Judges, with effect from the date on which he relieved Mr. C. A. Kelly.

The 3rd March 1876.—Moulvi Ramizuddin Khan, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Chittagong, is allowed leave for three months, under Sections 3 and 14, Supplement F of the Civil Leave Code, in extension of the leave granted to him under orders of the 14th October 1875, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 20th idem.

Lieutenant J. F. Rivett-Carnac, Officiating Assistant Commissioner, Lohardugga, is allowed privilege leave from the 23rd June to 3rd July 1875, both days inclusive.

The 4th March 1876.—Mr. J. C. Williamson, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, in charge of the Khoolna Division of the Jessore district, is transferred to the Sudder Station of that district.

Baboo Dino Nath Mookerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Manbhoom, is appointed to have charge of the Khoolna division of the Jessore district.

The late Mr. L. B. Roberts, Assistant Settlement Officer, Sonthal Pergunnahs was on leave on medical certificate up to the 29th February 1876, in extension of the leave granted to him under orders of the 14th February 1876, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 19th idem.

The services of Mr. William Erskine Ward, Officiating District and Sessions Judge, Dinagepore, on leave, are placed at the disposal of the Government of India in the Home Department.

Mr. Herbert Moseley, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Seetamurhee, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of Maldah during the absence, on duty, of Mr. L. B. B. King, or until further orders.

This cancels the orders of the 29th February 1876, appointing Mr. C. C. Quinn to act as Magistrate and Collector of Maldah.

In supersession of the orders of the 29th February 1876, Mr. F. S. Moseley Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is appointed to have charge of the Seetamurhee, division of the Mozufferpore district.

Mr. J. Nugent, Assistant Magistrate and Collector at Seetamurhee, is transferred to the district of Durbhunga.

The 6th March 1876.—The late Baboo Kedar Nath Mullick, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Manbhoom, having resumed charge of his duties on the forenoon of the 22nd February 1876, the unexpired portion of the leave granted to him under orders of the 24th December 1875 is cancelled.

Mr. Charles Frederick Magrath, B. A., is appointed to be a Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the Second Grade, *vice* Mr. G. K. Webster, who has ceased to retain lien on his appointment by taking extension of leave.

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